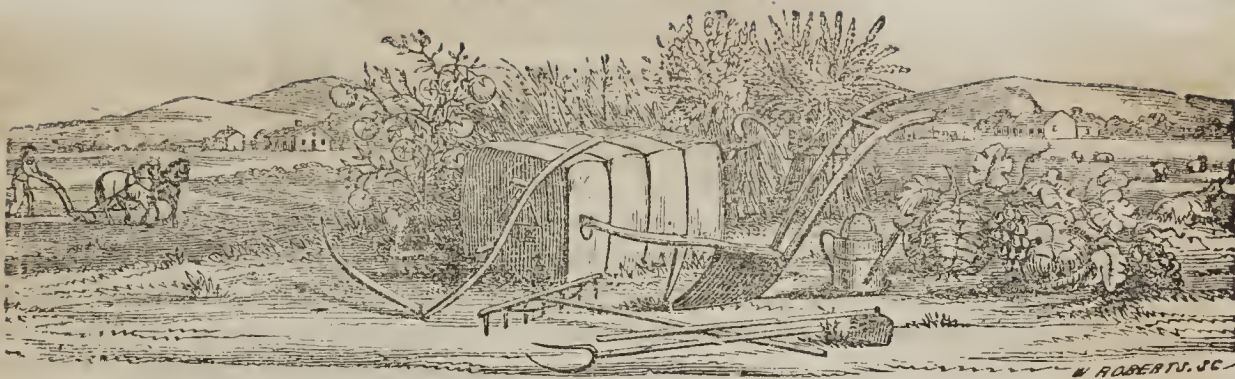


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THE FARMER AND PLANTER.

Devoted to Agriculture, Horticulture, Domestic and Rural Economy.

Vol. VIII.

PENDLETON, S. C., NOVEMBER, 1857.

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BY GEORGE SEABORN,

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For the Farmer and Planter.

Hog Premiums.

MR. EDITOR:—Before commencing the consideration of the subject of this article, permit me, most respectfully, to complain of the mistakes in my article of your August number.—The fault is, no doubt, in part, owing to my bad writing; but my impression is, that the proof reader might have prevented much of the misprint therein contained.* I see, also, in another article of the August number, the name of "Dr. Terrel," of Georgia, printed Dr. "Level." I mean in the paragraph where "Dr. Lee and Dr. Terrel" are alluded to. I shall now try to write so plain that your proof reader shall be blameable for all the mistakes in the print of this article.

*Corrected in October No.—Ed.

The improvement in hogs or hog raising, which I think our agriculturists need and what the State Society should aim to accomplish, is, to enable farmers to raise more pork with a given amount of labor, care and expense. To accomplish this end, I think it is necessary that *breeding* and *feeding* be better understood. The Society should not bestow a premium on any hog that did not distinctly indicate that his owner had skill in one or both these respects. The breeding and feeding both must be directed by the circumstances that surround the particular locality. In the "surroundings" of Potts' Cove, we are not in a situation to prefer Berkshire, Essex, Suffolk or any of the varieties that are suited to the pen and have their food furnished them every meal. Nor are any of those varieties of the swinish family suited to one-twentieth of the farmers or planters of the State. Most of us want hogs that can shift more or less; want them to pick up a considerable portion of their living from the fields, woods and swamps. We want a breed that will grow bone and not fat when fed on a light allowance, and that will take on fat readily when full fed at from 14 to 24 months old. With the common treatment of the country, the crosses of Woburn, Grazier, Chester County, and various other breeds, will, at fattening time, say from 16 to 24 months old, make hogs nearly twice as large as either the Berkshire, Essex or Suffolk. Hence, as I conceive, the great mistake our Executive Committee have made in offering the principal part of their premiums for those varieties. How awarding premiums to an inferior brood or pen of shabby pigs, because they belong to the

Berkshire family, can promote improvement in the business of hog raising in South Carolina, I am unable to perceive. And the same is true of any other aristocratic British family. For the most part they are suited only to a densely populated locality, where hogs are mainly kept in the pen, and not suited to the present condition of the wooden country of this State.]

When hogs are fat is the best time to judge of their capability of taking on fat. In fact, the most valuable part of hogs is the ham and fat, and neither of those qualities can be judged of in a poor hog. Fattening in any high degree, injures boars and sows for breeding purposes; hence, I am opposed to offering premiums for breeders.

[Let our premiums be offered for fat hogs of different ages, regardless of family names. Let us in this republican country do away with privileged classes even among hogs, and leave each to stand on their own merits. The most desirable hog, is the one that can be made the largest in a given time at least expense, regardless of blood or pedigree. In place of encouraging fancy importers and humbug speculating breeders, let the action of our Society encourage improvements in breeding and raising hogs among our farmers.] The plan I propose is, to offer premiums for fat hogs, as follows: 1st. class, under 6 months old; 2nd. class, over 6 and under 10 months old; 3rd. class, over 10 and under 14 months old; 4th. class, over 14 and under 18 months old; 5th. class, over 18 and under 24 months old. Put all the hogs, imported and native, in this way, on an equality. Require competitors to make full account of the exact age of their animals, with pedigree, management in breeding, feeding, physicing, &c., &c.; and then let the premiums be awarded on the hog taken in connection with the instructive character of the report.

In this way our hog show would soon become large and instructive. The true farmers of the country would attend and profit by our meetings. The business of hog raising in the State would be truly improved. We should at our annual meetings have our pens full of fine hogs, and not the few specimens of foreign varieties, which were merely curiosities last year, giving really more encouragement to the breeders of counties of Berkshire, Essex and Suffolk, than to the people of South Carolina.

I know the impression prevails that it is necessary to stick to the pure blood. In reply

I say that all the improved breeds of animals are, as it were, *artificial* productions. That they cannot be kept up to a certain point of excellence, without near about the same amount of care and skill that was required to produce them in the first instance. Most of the fine animals introduced into my District, have improved the common breeds by crossing, for one or two generations, and then have, for lack of skill and care, deteriorated so much as to have obliterated all the improvement made. The plan I propose, will, I conceive, in no way diminish the introduction of fine animals. For I have no doubt but that the common hogs of the country can be much more rapidly improved by judicious crosses with improved varieties, than can be accomplished in the same time, by the most skillful breeding among themselves; and, therefore, the number of full bred hogs would in no wise be diminished, but rather increased in the State.

The arrangement which I propose would, I conceive, be productive of the follow effects: The number of competitors for premiums would be increased; they would be compelled to study the business of hog raising, improving the animal, and his economic management; and they would have to report their reflections, and experience, and observations. Thus, intelligence on these subjects, would be greatly increased and diffused amongst our people. Let us adopt a policy which will make some of our Districts as renowned for hogs as any in England. The farmers of England would think very strange if their premiums at a cattle show were all or the principal part of them, offered for breeds of animals from some foreign country instead of their own. I think it just as absurd with us. Let every animal stand on its own merits, it being perfectly immaterial what name it bears. Let those gentlemen who think they can take the prize with foreign animals, have no advantage over those who think the native breeds are the best. "Try all things and hold to that which is best."

RIGMAROLE.

August 5th. 1857.

For the Farmer and Planter.
Syrup from Sorghum.

MR. EDITOR:—Enclosed you will find one dollar to pay for the Farmer and Planter one year, commencing with last January, to be directed to Dr. C. C. Hammond, Dalton, Georgia. Please send all the back Nos.

I sent you from Anderson, by Col. Sloan, on

Last Sale-day, a sample of Syrup made from the Chinese Sugar Cane, which I hope you received.

I do not claim credit for more than every farmer may do by bestowing a little attention to this new plant. The quality and quantity of syrup far exceeded my expectation, considering the rude and very imperfect operations for expressing the juice and boiling the syrup. The result has satisfied me of what may be done with perfect machinery and skilful management, and that every farmer may, with a small amount of labor and outlay, make an abundance of superior syrup for his own use at least, if not for market.

Very respectfully,

Your friend,

G. R. BROWN.

Belton, S. C., Sept. 15th, 1857.

For the Farmer and Planter.

Chinese Sugar Cane. (Sorghum Sucre, of the French).

MR. EDITOR:—After the very unknighly attack of my pseudo friend, "Perkins, Jr.," I concluded it was time for old fogies to pull up to a close reef, and lie snug to the wind; for I do assure my brothers of the plow, that the so-called "Knight of Chinquepin Ridge," has no small ambition—if nothing else, age has worn away the folly. We would advise Perkins, Jr., when he undertakes, again, to play critic, to be more respectful, and leave to vulgar writers, all wordy personalities, for we assure him, no good is ever arrived at by offensive written articles for the press.

To the Editor of the Farmer and Planter, we would most respectfully say, that on a review of our small (and may be unintelligible) article on climatology, we cannot see that we deserved any such notice as we received. (See editorial)

We have never arrogated to be a teacher of agriculture. What we have written in our weak way, has been to call forth the enlightened attention of others, and as far as we could, keep alive the farmers' literature, and upon these principles we venture to give our experience and thinkings on the value and economical uses of the Chinese Sugar Cane.

PREPARATION OF THE LAND, &c., &c., &c.—Deep plowed and bedded up as for cotton, in three feet beds, opened with a subsoil plow, and 100 lbs. of guano, mixed with five times its measure of charcoal dust, to the acre. The land was poor, of which about one and a half acres was prepared. I dropped the seed in, and cover-

ed lightly, it came up very scattering, for wherever the guano touched the seed, it killed it. To remedy this, I drew the plants and filled up. The drawn plants all lived, but did not throw out many stalks. I plowed twice and hoed twice; it stood the drought well, showing its tropical constitution, and giving it value as a forage plant for the South.

When the seed was fully matured, I pulled the fodder off just before cutting down. I crushed the cane as fast as I cut it, with a three roller wooden mill. One hundred and twenty-five gallons of juice of the ripest cane; made thirty-six and a half gallons of good golden-looking syrup. The first juice gave at the rate of eight gallons of syrup, to forty of juice showing that the ripeness of the cane gave less juice, but more saccharine matter; or in other words, water was alone lost. I boiled as rapid as possible, skimming with a strainer skimmer all the time, or so long as anything of a green color appeared on the surface. The yield of the whole of my cane, is one hundred and fifty gallons of good syrup. My calculation is, that one-third of the juice was lost from the use of the wooden mill, the cane, though run through twice, came out wet and heavy.

While speaking of the mill, I would here notice that my esteemed friend, Dr. Manly, of Charleston, informed me a few days since; that he had seen in Charleston, an Iron Cane Crushing Mill, on the Cuban plan, that would crush eight hundred gallons of juice per day, at the cost of one hundred dollars, manufactured in Charleston. With this mill, and three one hundred gallon sugar pans, set up in line in the furnace, two hundred gallons of syrup can be produced in a day. I have just advised the manufacturers to advertise in the Farmer and Planter, price of mill, pans, &c.

The crushed cane is excellent for hogs—they eat all but the flinty outside. The spare seed of my acre and a half, has fed some seventy hogs for two weeks with marked improvement, about a good waggon load of fodder, worth ten dollars. The seed, as hog feed, I think, will repay for guano, rent of land and cultivation.

The crushed cane, if cut up and put in barrels with water, will make good vinegar.

I expect next year, to plant for my hogs, to cut down and feed in an adjoining lot. They will eat it and do well on it, when it is quite young. I shall also sow some broadcast for mowing; I think it will make good hay, and in abundance.

JOHN P. BARRATT

Chinquepin Ridge, Sept. 27th, 1857.

For the Farmer and Planter.
A Desultory Chat.

MR. EDITOR:—We have just finished harvesting our fodder crop. The weather has been unexceptional, no rain and hardly any dew.—We saved our fodder differently this year from our usual mode; our usual mode is, to pull down, and hang on the stalk in hand ties, and take up when cured. The objection to this mode is, the fodder will mould under the hand ties, but when the weather is unfavorable, or threatening rain, we practice this mode, in preference to all others. The plan by which we saved the present crop (all things being favorable), was to pull down and lay on the ground until 2 o'clock, P. M., then turn back and tie up all that is pulled, and shock up; let it remain in shock 36 hours, then haul up and stack, or put in barn. On a field of 70 acres planted in corn, we noticed a spot of some 10 or 12 acres, on which the corn was, by 25 per cent., poorer than any other portion of the field, the land on this portion being equal to any in the field.—On enquiry, we found that all the field had been trench plowed, except this portion, which explained at once, the falling off. Having finished our fodder crop, we concluded to try our hand at making melasses,* having about one acre of the Chinese Sugar Cane planted as an experiment, on a lot of thin land, the stand not good, the season too dry, and the cultivation, one plowing and hoeing, consequently it was poor Cane. We constructed a wooden mill with two upright rollers, which was a splendid failure. With some alterations, and a third roller added, we succeeded in getting a mill that did well. We could, at our leisure, with one hand to feed, express 20 gallons of juice per hour, 18 gallons of which made, after boiling six hours, 3 gallons and three quarts of excellent syrup. Our little patch of little Cane made us 32 gallons of melasses. Our mill cost us, besides our own labor, \$8.00. We are perfectly satisfied from the experiment we have made, that every planter can make his own melasses without lessening his corn and cotton crop any, and if he does not do so, ought to be made to pay \$5 per gallon.

By the way, we must say to our old friend, Dr. Phillips, that we admire his *charity* more than his *consistency*. We did not intend to be "rude." He is right in saying we had "no cause or design to offend." We only intended a gen-

*Melasses, not Molasses. From (mel) honey. See Hobly's Medical Dictionary. (See also Webster.—Ed. F. & P.)

tle rebuke. We thought those articles of his were in bad test, coming from an old advocate for *agricultural improvement*.

Our cotton crop is poor. Our pea, turnip and potatoe crops are a failure for the want of rain. We have had no rain since the first of August. Our corn crops in this immediate neighborhood, suffered for the want of rain, but we will make enough for home consumption.

SPARROWGRASS.

Little Branch, Sept. 14th, 1857.

On the Advantages of stirring the Soil in Dry Weather.

[We have received several excellent communications on this subject, and think our readers will be interested in a few extracts.]—EDS. GENESEE FARMER.

I have known instances where a narrow strip has been left unbroken in a summer-fallow during a dry summer, and after harvest it was all cross-plowed together. The unbroken strip would appear almost destitute of moisture, while that which was plowed and frequently stirred with the harrow or cultivator, exhibited quite a contrast.

It is the common experience of farmers, that wheat sown in a dry fall upon fallow ground is much more liable to come up well, than when sown on stubble.

Again, in hoeing corn in very hot weather, when you could fairly see the corn grow, upon leaving the field at night I have measured some hills that were hoed and some that were not, and the next night compared their growth during the twenty-four hours. The result was that the hoed had made about twice the growth of the unhoed.

Two years ago last summer I planted rather late in the season a small piece to cucumbers for pickles. The soil was dry, sandy loam, with a warm, southern aspect. I determined to rely entirely upon frequent hoeing to resist the effects of that unusually severe drought. The piece yielded a fine lot of pickles, the vines remaining green and bearing well until destroyed by the frost; while vines in the neighborhood treated in the ordinary way were dried up and barren. So much for facts. Now how are these results to be accounted for.

We have seen that the soil frequently stirred had gathered moisture, and had also received from some source, nutrition. From what source and by what powers were those supplies of moisture and nutrition derived? It is a well known fact, that the driest atmosphere contains vapor, which is usually deposited in the night upon any substance that is sufficiently cool to condense it into water in the form of dew. At the close of a hot day, when the air is calm and the sky clear, vegetation soon radiates sufficient heat to reduce its temperature to the dew point. The naked earth does not possess this power; hence we often find dew upon vegetation, when the bare ground is dry, not having cooled enough to condense the va-

por in the proximate atmosphere. But if the ground is mellow, the air will penetrate its surface, carrying its vapor until it reaches a cooler soil where it is condensed into dew, which diffuses itself through the mellowed earth.

Your agricultural readers have probably noticed that fresh plowed ground is frequently covered with dew, and sometimes with frost, when the adjoining ground is dry.

I think I have succeeded in accounting for the presence of moisture in soil frequently stirred, when almost entirely wanting in compact ground; yet I believe that water is not the only ingredient that soil frequently stirred, derives from the atmosphere.

I am convinced with you, Messrs. Editors, that nitrogen is an important element in the pabulum of crops. Nitrogen is present in the form of ammonia to a certain extent in the atmosphere, and as it has a strong affinity for water, being absorbed by it in large quantities; is it not reasonable to infer that it is combined with the vapor, and with it conveyed to the roots of growing plants to minister to their urgent necessity? Like favorable effects may be produced in mellow soil by the light showers that frequently occur, even in the dryest weather. The difference in the depth to which light showers will penetrate in soils frequently stirred, and those left hard and baked, is very appreciable.

In conclusion, allow me to exhort my brother farmers to keep the plow, the hoe, and the cultivator pretty busy in their corn, potatoes, root crops, and even their wheat fields, believing it will do more to counteract the injurious effects of our severe droughts, than any other means which they can employ.

Palmira, N. Y.

P. C. R.

That there are advantages to be obtained by stirring the soil in dry weather, no person can doubt who has ever tried it, and as there certainly is some cause therefor, every enquiring mind will seek to know what those causes are. I am convinced that by the stirring, the soil causes the moisture from below to rise to the surface, and also prepares the soil by loosening it to absorb and retain the moisture of the atmosphere, which is so very essential to the growth and maturity of the growing crops, keeping it green and in a flourishing condition during the dry weather. Whereas if the soil is not stirred, (but let alone to wait for rain, as some farmers have done to my knowledge, because they were afraid they would kill, or at least very materially injure their crops,) after a few days it will become so dry that the moisture from below the surface will not rise even during the night season sufficient to keep the crop green and flourishing, and the soil will fail to absorb and retain the atmospheric moisture; hence the crop becomes withered and begins to show signs of failure much sooner than where the soil was stirred and kept loose, proving conclusively (to my mind at least) that stirring the soil in dry weather is a great advantage to the growing crops.

W.

Laurel, Delaware.

The effect of the hot sun upon the soil is to render it dry and hard, and prevent the absorption of moisture which would otherwise take place from the dew and atmosphere. If left unstirred, this dryness descends continually, and each day finds the soil less able to absorb and retain that moisture which is absolutely necessary for the growth of crops. The consequence is, they cannot come to maturity, and the hot sun scorches them "to death." But if the soil is frequently stirred and kept loose and mellow, it can—somewhat like a sponge—not only absorb a much greater quantity of moisture, but also retain it, than if it is left in that hard, impervious state which is so very frequently permitted.

D. S.

Salem, Ohio.

I have observed to but little purpose if I am not convinced of the necessity of stirring the soil in dry weather. The garden and grain-fields of every farmer of any experience, have taught him a lesson in this respect which he cannot forget. Weeds and foreign plants are entirely subdued if the ground is properly stirred in dry weather; hence it gives to the crop a greatly increased supply of food and drink. Pulverization of the soil can only be thoroughly effected at this time, and here is an advantage that is not likely to be overestimated. It is to the vegetable world what mastication is to the animal;—much depending upon the thoroughness with which this has been effected.

A neighbor's cucumbers failed last year, and he said to me "he thought they had been hoed too much." The only trouble was, in my opinion, they had not been thoroughly hoed. An inch of the surface, although better than nothing, is not enough to stir in dry weather; it should be deep as well as thorough.

It leaves the soil in a proper state to receive warmth and moisture, and to retain them longer. How soon and evenly Nature's supplies of water are distributed where the ground has been stirred in dry weather, benefiting every plant alike, and there is not that rapid evaporation which takes place where the ground has become hardened from any cause. The All-wise often withholds the rain, and sometimes even the dew, yet He has not left the farmer to be consumed in the drought, but has provided a substitute—deep and thorough pulverization of the soil. We do not wish to be understood as affirming that this will avail in all cases; but that it will greatly mitigate the evils of a severe drought, and that an ordinary spell of dry weather will be really an advantage to the farmer.

A. J. C.

Scipio, N. Y.

The North American Hemp and Cotton Plant.

This singular production of nature was first discovered about three years ago (growing wild in the southwest part of Wisconsin), by a Mrs. Beaumont, who transplanted it, and has since cultivated it with great success, having now from 15 to 16 acres of it growing on her farm. She describes it as follows:

"From a single root that I transplanted, there

sprang up about twenty stalks, measuring from 15 to 17 feet each, in height, having upwards of three hundred pods containing the cotton, with about fifty or sixty seeds in each pod. It can be planted in the spring and may be cut in the fall; it bleaches itself almost white as it stands in the field, and yields from 3 to 4 tons of good hemp or flax to the acre. The hemp or flax is the produce of the stalk, and the cotton is the head or bulb of the plant; it requires but little labor to cultivate it, for when once planted it will remain in the ground for several years, throwing out fresh shoots or stalks every year. The hemp (when stripped from the stalk) requires to be dressed, of course, and the flax should be heckled in the usual way; the cotton, too, should be dressed with a cotton gin the same as they dress cotton raised in the south. I believe that this plant may be cultivated in any part of the world, and I think it will grow and thrive on almost any soil (if not too stiff), but rich black loam suits it best."

The discovery of this valuable plant proves at once that cotton can be grown at the North as well as at the South, and it may produce a great revolution in the cotton trade.—*Life Illustrated.*

If the above conclusion be legitimate, the discovery should certainly be ranked among the most important of the age. But from our inspection of the specimen in our office, kindly furnished sometime since by Mrs. B., we are inclined to think our cotemporary unwarrantably enthusiastic. The plant described is evidently a species of the genus *Gossypium*, and may be worthy of cultivation; but we fear the crop is too small, the labor of preparing it too great, and the staple too short to effect any such thing as "a great revolution in the cotton trade."

It might be used, without doubt, for the manufacture of those fabrics which do not necessarily involve the property of strength; although it is our opinion that it was originally intended for the manufacture of paper. Its beautiful cream color and fine silky texture, eminently qualify it to fulfil that most important function. Mrs. Beaumont's efforts to test the value of this new plant and introduce it to public attention, are certainly commendable, alike for the enterprise with which they are conducted, and the philanthropy by which they were prompted; and we hope the proprietors of our Wisconsin paper-mills will soon commence an investigation of its availability for their uses.

II.,

of Wisconsin Farmer.

Increase of Sun Flowers.

The observations and remarks of Lieutenant Maury in regard to the sun flower being a preventive of fever and ague, if cultivated in malarious districts, seems to have roused up quite an affection for that coarse, folly-faced, honest-old fashioned flower. We are glad of it; we always liked the hearty, uncouth beauty of the flower, and if it shall prove as Lieut. Maury says it will, a protector of the health of those in fever and ague climates who may cultivate it,

there will be an additional claim on it for its utilitarian qualities.

We have formerly taken some pains to enumerate the many good qualities of the sun flower. The above *anti ague* property is a new one, and we will here name a good use which we have heard made of it. A friend told us that while traveling over one of the western prairies, he stopped at the house of a settler, situate alone by itself, no neighbor being in sight. He called for some food. It was the house of a settler just beginning, and there were no women as yet there. The man said he would prepare a meal for him, and soon filled his tea kettle and placed it on the stove. But how are you to heat it? said the guest; I see neither coal nor wood here. I will show you, said his host, and going up stairs brought down a large sun flower, its disk covered with seed, with a match to set it on fire, and placing it under the kettle it soon set it to boiling and a nice cup of tea was soon smoking by him. We do not see but the sun flower will become a cherished crop in the South and West. While growing it will ward off disease. Its leaves make good fodder for cattle, and excellent cigars for smoking. The stalk, as also the seed ear, are good for fuel. The seeds are excellent for fowls, and will also afford a pure oil. In short, the good old sun flower will become a great source of health and comfort to those who give it a chance to grow.

It is not supposed that there is any specific virtue in the sun flower, to ward off disease arising from miasma in the atmosphere. This property, if it is really in it, is owing to its large foliage. Its growth is rapid, and its large leaves, drink in the air with all its impurities, and by their action convert noxious, different elements, to their own use, and return the pure oxygen again to the air, for the use of the animal kingdom.

Next to the sun flower, we should think the artichoke would be useful for this purpose.—Although the leaves are not so large as the sun flower's, they will grow thicker and have the advantage of being a permanent crop, continuing for years after being planted, and therefore not needing a new seedling every spring.

The above article is from the *Maine Farmer*, and we publish it simply to call attention to the facts set forth. We cannot understand on what principle the sun flower can arrest disease by merely growing in the neighborhood of the residents, and we shall be compelled to remain doubters until further observation shall settle the question. Where land is sufficiently low priced, sun flowers may be raised for the oil, as the bulk to be transported is but small, and its value great, but we cannot comprehend its hygienic claim lately attributed to it.—*EN. WORKING FARMER.*

Camphor a Remedy for Mice.—Any one desirous of keeping seeds from the depredations of mice, can do so by mixing pieces of camphor gum in with the seeds. Camphor placed in drawers or trunks will prevent mice from doing them injury.—*Western American.*

Good vs. Bad Breed of Hogs.

Reader, did you ever see a shoat while rooting, kick up every time he bored his nose into the ground, as if trying to stand on his head? If so, don't buy him; he will not prove a profitable feeder. We might call these a sub-soil variety.

Did you ever see a hog that would grab an ear of corn and run a quarter of a mile before he would stop to eat? If so, beware. We will place them in the same category and for the sake of distinction we will call them the Elm peelers. Did you ever see a tall, slab-sided, long-legged, razor-backed breed that were always hungry, and when opportunity required, would climb up to where the rails in the fence were some distance apart and then either slip through a crack or throw off a few rails and jump over? If so, don't purchase unless you are a small farmer and can't possibly build corn cribs. We might perhaps, call these free soilers or else barn burners.

Did you ever see a slim, dead alive kind of thing that would get so poor as to be obliged to trot before and center behind when required to get up motion and still not die; its eyes both coming out at the same hole, or at least so near it that the hog appeared cross eyed? If so, let us pass the dismal picture and simply call them old liners. All these breeds may be described as follows: Long ears, large, heavy heads, long and thick legs, a streak of lean underneath a thick gristle and that covered with a thick, tough hide, with abundance of bristles, and in fine a great amount of offal of every description.

Such animals have no thriftiness, no capacity to fatten, and very little about them that is digestible after they are killed.

Considering the number of hogs that are raised annually in the United States and especially as so many depend almost exclusively on the hog crop for the money they need, is it not wonderful that so few persons take pains to obtain the best varieties. Suppose you have to give \$20 or even \$50 for a pair of pigs to begin with. Is this an insufferable obstacle? I answer no. Doubtless you may procure a good breed for less money, but let us look at the practical proof, on the score of economy and see how long it would take it to pay at these figures. Suppose you have 100 hogs of the alligator or land pike breed which you sell at \$5 per hundred. 150 lbs. at twelve months old will be about all you can make them weigh.—Here you have \$7.50.

Again take 100 hogs of a good breed which will weigh at the same age and with less feed, 250 lbs. Here you have \$12.50, making a clear profit of \$5, without taking into account the save in feeding, which would no doubt swell the profits to a much larger amount. A hog that has to be kept more than one winter, before fattening will eat his head off in all cases. Hence the most profitable kinds will be found in those hogs which attain the greatest weight (without extra attention) in from 12 to 18 months.

Pick for a hog with a small, clean head, rather

er small bone, body low to the ground, long and square; hams full and round; disposition quiet and pleasant. Such a hog will always insure a good return. If you can come across such hogs, whether called Berkshire, Woburn, Suffolk, Grazier, or what not, get some and try them. They will not disappoint you.

A word to the wise is sufficient.—*Valley Far.*

Bees in California.

It appears that California is a great country for bees. A correspondent of the *California Farmer* says that he produced ten swarms in one season from a single stock or family. He says:

The secret of my success, is, in being able to make the bees raise a young Queen, and a swarm issue, at pleasure—a discovery which I have made by three years experimenting with them, and of the practicability of which I am perfectly satisfied. I can go to a hive and destroy the Queen, and make the bees raise another in eighteen days. Also, can take one quart of bees from an old hive, put them in an empty one, and make them raise a Queen and become a good swarm, in the space of three months.

No man can do that in this region of country, nor do we believe that a "good swarm" can be made in California in three months from one quart of bees. It requires four quarts, at least, to fill a proper sized hive, and lay up honey enough to pass the winter, in any section of the Union north of Washington city. It is a fact, that the bees can make a new Queen, when the old one dies, or is removed from the hive; but there must be the eggs or larva of bees in the hive at the time, not over four days old. We have placed a piece of comb, containing such larva at the corner of an empty hive, by cementing it in position with melted bees-wax, and then we have placed the hive in the position of a very strong family, which we removed to a new location, first brushing off large numbers of bees clustering upon the sides of it, and at the expiration of 16 days we have driven out the bees and found a perfect Queen just emerged from a royal cell, constructed in the piece of comb which we attached in the corner of the hive. The proof of a Queen having been made by the bees rested on the fact, that a royal cell existed in the comb placed there, and also that a Queen was found in the hive. The larva (grubs) that were in the comb attached to the hive, were common, worker larva, and such as would have produced nothing but worker bees, in a hive where a Queen existed. The workers do possess the power of taking an egg, or grub of their own sex, and making a Queen, by enlarging the cell, and feeding the young scion of royalty on a peculiar food.

[*Rural American.*]

Destroying the Borer—Details of Experience.

Mr. G. W. Harmon, of Dennington, V., sends us the following valuable details of his observations and practice:

Various species of trees, both fruit and ornamental, are subject to the attacks of grub worm

which either kill or seriously injure them. Among these worms are included the *Apple* and *Pear Borers*, the *Peach* and *Plum Borers*.

The *Apple Borer*, as usually observed in this vicinity, in the trunks of the *Apple*, *Quince* and *Mountain Ash* trees, is a white fleshy grub, with a flattened body, and large dark head, which generally enters the tree at or near the collar, just at the surface of the ground, where the bark is tender, and working longitudinally, at first, in the bark or new wood, eventually preforates the tree to the extent of many inches, up and down, or through the stem, diffusing a poisonous property, and causing its death.—This grub is the larvæ of a brown and white striped beetle, half an inch long; and it remains in this grub state two or three years, coming out of the tree in a butterfly form, early in June, flying in the night time only, from tree to tree after its food, and finally depositing its eggs during this and the next month in the collar of the tree.

The *Pear Borer*, in appearance, is nearly identical with the *Apple Borer*, perhaps the same insect, but is essentially different in its mode of operation—confining its ravages to the bark and soft wood, and moving in a crooked or zig-zag course around the stem, cutting a channel that completely arrests the downward flow of the sap.

The *Peach* and *Plum Borers*, are more round and fleshy than the former two, and make their lodgment in the collar of the tree. But it is in reference to the *Apple* and *Pear Borers* that I would more particularly speak.

To rid my orchard of these implacable enemies, I repair to the trees about the 15th of August, and kneeling upon the ground with a garden trowel, remove the soil for a few inches below the stem, to the depth of three to six inches. With the back of my knife, I scrape the uncovered stem thoroughly, pressing upon every part of it, and several inches above the collar, to assure myself of its soundness, and if any yielding under the pressure of the knife is observed. I explore for the cause, which generally proves to be a *Borer*. I cut away the dead bark, and remove all the chips left by the *Borer*, sometimes following with a chisel and mallet six or eight inches, until I find it, and having killed the insect, carefully clean out the whole wound made by it in the tree, taking care not to enlarge it. Ten or fifteen grubs are sometimes found in a single tree. Having completed the examination, I replace the soil, covering with it, if possible, all of the wounds upon the stem. In April I repeat the examination, to kill such of the insects as may have escaped the former. An average of forty minutes to each tree is consumed in the two examinations.

Various expedients had been adopted to prevent the beetle laying its eggs upon the trees, some of them partially successful, but none of them completely so until an experiment which I tried last season. It was this;

During the last week in May, I removed the soil from around the stems of my apple, pear and quince trees, to the depth of two or three inches. I then wound around each tree a large

newspaper, placing the lower edge at the bottom of the cavity, and extending upwards the full length of the paper, tying the paper at the bottom and top firmly with twine, and loosely in two places between. I then replaced the soil. In about three weeks, and before the papers had rotted at the ground, I banked the earth around a considerable portion of them, and repeated it about three weeks later. Early in July I loosened the upper twine, to prevent its cutting the trees. About the 15th of August I removed the papers from the apple and quince trees, (leaving them on the pear trees all winter) and to my great joy, not a *Borer* was to be found in those which had been banked up in proper season; the others not wholly escaping. The reason was obvious.—It was simply impossible for the beetle to lay its eggs where instinct teaches it to deposit them. The whole time occupied in these operations, including the examination in August, averaged twenty minutes to each tree.

If our cultivators will pursue the course above indicated, (first ridding their trees of all grubs now in them), they need complain no more of the *Borer*, the experience of one summer confirming as an infallible preventive what would seem in reason to be such.

Covering the stems with paper, inasmuch as it shields them from the solar rays, is very beneficial, promoting a thrifty growth of the stems.

[*Am. Agriculturist.*]

There are some kinds of paper, of the cheaper sorts, which contain a small portion of tar, such as are made from bale rope ends, etc., and known as *hardware paper*, being suited to such use from its greater strength, toughness, etc. Such paper would decay slowly in the soil, and its creosote-like odor might render its vicinity less acceptable to insects of most kinds. If wetted it could be wound round the earth-collar of the peach, covering the cotyledons, shaping itself to the form of the tree without tying; and if Mr. Harmon is right in his supposition, we could thus save our *Peach* and other trees from the worm.—ED. WORK, FARMER.

Nutritious Properties of Straw.

Of late years straw has been used in England for feeding and fattening cattle, to a much greater extent than had been usual either in that or in this country. It is generally used in the cut or chopped state, along with turnips or other roots, or with dissolved oil-cake, or molasses. With any of these additions, it is thought to answer very well as a substitute for hay.

To statements of this kind we could very readily give credence, for we have known of cows being kept in very good condition through a whole winter, while they had nothing besides straw except about four quarts of bran night and morning. Our belief in the nutritious qualities of straw has been much corroborated, however, by the reports which have recently been made public in regard to the discovery in France, of a method of converting straw into a kind of bran.

M. Jos. Maitre, a distinguished agriculturist and sheep breeder, has succeeded after long experimental trials, in converting not only straw, but also hay, into a kind of bran or farina. The aliment which he produces, is said to be a complete substitute for bran. It has been given to sheep and lambs, and they are said to consume it with good relish. If palatable and nutritious to sheep, it is likely to be so also to all other graminivorous animals.

It seems highly probable that grinding straw into a state of coarse meal or powder, should make it much more nutritious than it is in the natural condition. This is the usual consequence of a minute division or comminution of all kinds of grain, as well as of other food.—Straw converted into a kind of bran or coarse meal, must be much more easily masticated and digested than in the natural state. If even the mere chopping of straw adds greatly to its nutritious powers, as is commonly supposed, how much more must such a complete comminution of its substances as is effected by the process referred to. The *modus operandi*, or manner in which benefit is secured, is common to both processes, though to the one in greater degree than to the other. Both processes facilitate the digestion of the straw in the stomach, and the extraction of whatever nutriment is contained in it.

Until M. Maitre shall supply us with some of his mills for grinding straw, let those who use it, either in the cut or uncut state, be sure that they add to it or mix with it enough of meal, roots, bran, or other nutritious matter, to make it equal to good hay, or a little better even, so far as this satisfying and keeping of his creatures in good condition are concerned.

[Country Gentleman.]

How Cities Exhaust the Fertility of Land.

There has been enough of the elements of bread, and meat, wool and cotton, drawn from the surface of the earth, sent to London and buried in the ground, or washed into the Thames, to feed and clothe the entire population of the world for a century, under a wise system of agriculture and horticulture. Down to this day, great cities have ever been the worst desolators of the earth. It is for this they have been so frequently buried many feet beneath the rubbish of their idols of brick, stone and mortar, to be exhumed in after years by some antiquarian Layard. Their inhabitants violated the laws of nature, which govern the health of man and secure the enduring productiveness of the soil. How few comprehend the fact that it is only the elements of bread and meat, evolved during the decomposition of some vegetable or animal substance, that poison the air taken into human lungs, and the water that enters the human system, in daily food and drink! These generate pestilence, and bring millions prematurely to their graves.

Why should the precious atoms of potash, which organized the starch in all the flour, meal and potatoes consumed in the cities of the United States in the year 1850, be lost forever to the world? Can a man create a new atom

of potash or of phosphorus when the supply fails in the soil, as fail it must under our present system of farm economy? Many a broad desert in Eastern Asia once gladdened the husbandman with golden harvests. While America is the only country on the globe where every human being has enough to eat, and millions are coming here for bread, how long shall we continue to impoverish ninety-nine acres in a hundred of all that we cultivate? Both pestilence and famine are the offspring of ignorance. Rural science is not a mere plaything for the amusement of grown up children. It is a new revelation of the wisdom and goodness of Providence, a humanizing power which is destined to elevate man an immeasurable distance above his present condition. To achieve this result, the light of science must not be confined to colleges; it must illuminate the dwelling of every farmer and mechanic. The knowledge of the few, no matter how profound, nor how brilliant, can never compensate for the loss sustained by neglecting to develop the intellect of the many.

No government should be wanting in sympathy with the people, whether the object be the prevention of disease, the improvement of land or the education of the masses. One per cent. of the money now annually lost by reason of popular ignorance, would suffice to remove that ignorance.—*Watchman and Reflector*.

Appeal for Railroads.

The Louisville *Courier*, in concluding an excellent article on the subject of the subscription of \$100,000 by the Louisville & Frankfort Railroad to the Lexington & Big Sandy Railroad, makes the following appeal in behalf of railroads:—*Railroad Record*.

But beyond these calculations of the absolute profits to be made by voting for the subscription, there is no end to be attained which is higher and nobler. It is the increase of railroads in our land. Whoever has pursued the history of countries where railroads constructed, and compared them with those portions of the earth where such internal improvements do not exist much, have marked the difference in the wealth, the intelligence, the enterprise and the happiness of the people. From the moment that the first locomotives thundered over the velvet lawns of England, and the vineclad hills of France, and the gardened plains of Germany, these countries have marched onward with unvented strides in the career of national greatness. The seas and the rivers are no longer the great highways of their traffic with the nations of the earth. Their commerce speeds like the winged winds along the plain, upon the hill, over the mountain.

Ours is a country designed by nature for the construction of railroads. Our forests afford abundance of timber, our mines inexhaustible supplies of minerals, and the face of our country offers no insurmountable obstacles in the progress of our roads to any point of the compass. Our rivers can be bridged, our hills cut down, and our mountains tunneled. From the time that the first railroad was constructed in

our country for the purpose of conveying granite from the quarries in Quincy to Boston in 1827, our march has been onward in this great branch of enterprise. Railroads now ramify all parts of our country and unto the distant shores of our continent. Their history is that of our national greatness and individual wealth and happiness. They have been the great pioneer of civilization. They have annihilated time. They have overcome distance. They have linked distant communities in the golden chain of identity. They have spread the light of learning as from a radiant sun. They have added terrors to our armies. They have made peace more peaceful. With them hours are but moments, and miles but imperceptible lines. The mighty weights which break the sinews of beasts of burden are to them but bubbles sporting on the billows of strength. They perform for us the labor of millions of men and the cry of weariness comes not from their iron mouths as they thunder along the plain, leap across the river, roll over the hill, or dart through the mountain.

It is a question worthy of consideration whether railroads should ever be built with a view to dividends among stockholders. They should be constructed as great national enterprises from which individual benefits are to arise from the increased value of the lands through which they pass, and the advantages of speedy communication with different parts of the country. The farmer who owns an hundred acres of land through which a railroad is to pass, and values it at \$2,500, may well afford to take stock in the road to the amount of \$1,000, simply because the value of his land will increase more than this sum. But should he expect dividends from this road? Has he not been paid back his \$1,000 in the increased value of his property? May not the same thing be said of the merchant who has gotten back what he paid for his stock in the increased sales to customers brought to him by railroad communication.

To keep Tires tight on Wheels.—I wish to communicate to the public a method by which tires on wheel carriages may be kept tight. I ironed a wagon, some years ago, for my own use, and before putting on the tires, I filled the felloes with linseed oil; and the tires have worn out and were never loose. I ironed a buggy for my own use, seven years ago, and the tires are now as tight as when put on. My method of filling the felloes with oil is as follows: I use a long cast iron oil heater, made for the purpose, the oil is brought to a boiling heat, the wheel is placed on a stick, so as to hang in the oil, each felloe one hour, for a common sized felloe.

The timber should be dry, as green timber will not receive oil. Care should be taken that the oil be made no hotter than a boiling heat, in order that the timber be not burnt. Timber filled with oil is not susceptible of water, and the timber is much more durable. I was amused, some time ago, when I told a blacksmith how to keep tires tight on wheels, by his telling me, it was a profitable business to

tighten tires, and the wagon maker will say, it is profitable to him to make and repair wheels—but, what will the farmer, who supports the wheel right and smith, say? —*Cor. South-Plant.*

Hygienic Influence of Trees.

The cultivation of forest trees is becoming more and more a subject of serious consideration among public economists.

The relation of trees to the comforts and conveniences of life, and the great question for a future supply, which arises in view of the continual destruction of our forests has attracted the attention of the best intellects of our country.

To the physician the subject has an additional importance in view of the hygienic influence of trees upon the atmosphere, and consequently upon the human system, both in health and disease.

It is well known that new diseases make their appearance as the forests are cleared away, and the superior physical power and health of backwoodsmen over the inhabitants of treeless plains, has always been acknowledged.

The influence of animal and vegetable life, one upon the other, has not escaped the attention of observing men; but little or no effort has been made to inform the public of many facts in connection with this subject which it is vitally important should be known; and a wholesale destruction of our forest trees has gone on to an extent that threatens to leave us, at a time not far in the future, comparatively destitute of the great pride of America—its forests.

The physiological influence of trees of all sorts is apparent to every one who knows the avidity with which they absorb carbon and ammonia, the two great extractions of animal life, which, if left free in the atmosphere, render poisonous the air we breathe.

The planting of trees in our cities, and the preservation of forests, would do more to preserve the public health than many other more hygienic expensive measures.

[*N. H. Jour. Med.*]

Minerals we eat.—All know that man has a great deal of brass in his composition, but perhaps all are not aware of the variety of minerals that enter the human system. A writer in *Dickens' Household Words* thus tells the story:

"These minerals, which are interwoven with the living structure of the plant, are taken up into the fabric of the animal. And to us they are as important as to the meanest vegetable that grows. I, who write this, boast myself living flesh and blood. But lime strengthens my bones, iron flows in my blood, flint bristles in my hair, sulphur and phosphorus quiver in my flesh. In the human frame the rock moves, the metal flows, and the materials of the earth, snatched by the divine power of vitality from the realms of inertia, live and move and form part of a soul-tenanted frame. In the very secret chamber of the brain there lies a gland, gritty with earthy mineral matter, which Des-

cultures did not scruple, with a crude scientific impetuosity, to assign as the residence of the soul. You could no more have lived, and grown, and flourished without iron, and silica, and potash, and sodium, and magnesia, than wheat could flourish without phosphorus, grass without silica, cress without lime, or clover without lime. We are all of us, indeed, of the earth, earthy.

Artificial Stone Houses.

A writer in the *Country Gentleman*, from Barre, Mass., gives the following plan for building artificial stone buildings:

"I like the material used and recommended by Fowler and others—artificial stone walls, made of lime, sand and stones—that is, cobble stones, fragments of brick, coal cinders, &c.—But I object to the usual method of using it in what are called "grout" houses, cement houses, &c. It is sloppy and annoying work to build it up in troughs, as is usually done. The fluid runs down over the walls, and each layer does not harden fast enough to build on, as soon as is often wished.

I use the same material, and propose to obviate these objections by a neater and pleasanter mode of use, which shall be easier and stronger work than the usual mode. I make my material into blocks of stone, and build my house of these. Thus, make cheaply some 20 or 30 boxes, of sides only, without top or bottom, of proper size, say two feet long, one foot high, and 14 to 18 inches wide. These are the dimensions of the future blocks. Make up, of a morning, sufficient material in a bed, fill up all the boxes, smooth the tops, and go off.—Next morning lift off the boxes; let the blocks stand to dry and harden; set the boxes in a new place, and fill up as before. Do this under a shed, or, if out doors, cover over the blocks during the first rains, and they will soon harden enough to use. In this way any fish-man may, in 25 mornings, at 50 cents or less, each, *hew out* stone enough for a large house.

Then build your house, as any one would, of stone. The blocks for first story may be 14 or 16, or 18, inches wide, and for second story, 10 or 12, narrowing the mold boxes by nailing a board or two inside, or sawing the ends narrower. Walls so built are dry; but they may be made still more so and warmer if possible, and still cheaper, if any one *could* wish it, by putting a wooden cylinder or two into the mould-box, and knocking it out after the box is lifted off, thus making dead air in the wall.—Besides this, the wall is of course to be fired and lathered and plastered inside. Of course some blocks are to be made solid, for corners and ends of the walls.

Give the dimensions of your house, and one can easily calculate the number of blocks needed, and any farmer's boy may make them.

In laying the wall, if, in order to bring a flush wall for door or window, it should be necessary to leave a few inches between some blocks, the space may be easily filled by pieces of brick or regular stones well mortared in.

I commend this as the *best* plan for building

a cheap and durable house—better than brick, as good as stone, and lasts forever. If nice finish is needed, cement and color the outside wall, and lay it off by lines, like stone, and indeed it is.

If any one doubts this plan, try it on a smoke-house, or hog-pen, or shed of any kind, or, indeed, a stone wall.

No rats infest this house, no storm can shake it, no wind whistle through it. Dry, tight, warm in winter and cool in summer, it is the cheapest, strongest, and best.

A good proportion of the ingredients which Fowler and all others recommend, is—say 10 bushels or barrow loads of lime, 20 of sand, and 20 of stones, &c., and any quantity of water. I take it for granted your readers understand something of the gravel wall plan. I write merely to advocate the block stone plan—the same material, but in different shape.—One can see how cheap must be the walls of a house with only one-tenth lime, and that so cheap, and the other materials nine-tenths, which costing nothing."

Winter Care of Animals---Horses.

We advert to this subject thus early for the reasons that many spare moments may beat the disposal of the farmer ere the snow and frosts of winter come up on us, and because the habitations of domestic animals should be fully and comfortably prepared for their reception, long ere necessity compels them and us to seek a shelter.

The first requirement in the winter care of horses, is, a good stable. The choice of situation, and there is a choice, is an important item. A high and dry spot, or one that will admit of drainage, is as necessary for this purpose as for the house of the farmer. Stables *should be dry*. Damp stables are productive of as many evils as damp houses, in fact many of the most violent diseases to which the horse is subject, are often attributable to this one defect. Shelter from cold and bleak winds is another desideratum which should receive attention. Stables should also be easy of access—here, however, the farmer consults his own comfort, and on this point it is unnecessary to dilate.

The second necessity is, that the stable should be of good size. Not unfrequently horses are crowded into space so small as to be not only extremely uncomfortable for them, but highly injurious to their health. Stables thus crowded undergo sudden and remarkable transitions of temperature—the air becomes so heated that the animals are almost constantly in perspiration, and on being taken out to perform work, are immediately chilled; and colds and coughs soon produce their ultimate and inevitable results.

Another want and a very great one is, windows. Dark stables are undoubtedly injurious,—if they were not, the necessity that will at times arise for light to render aid to animals that may get cast or injured, periods, when prompt and efficient action is needed, demand a reform in this respect.

Again, proper and thorough ventilation should, in the construction, be one of the prime objects sought. Man sees the necessity for a circulation of air in his house, where breathing is the only thing that destroys the purity of the atmosphere,—how much more necessary is it in the home of the horse, where the emanations from the surface of the body, the manure and the urine, all mingle with it and taint it.

Having provided comfortable quarters, the duty of supplying them with a sufficient quantity of good food, and that at regular intervals, devolves upon the keeper. For many years experiments have been in progress with the purpose of ascertaining the kinds best adapted to the wants of the animal at this period of the year. Persons differ as to the relative value of many articles, yet all agree that variety is essential. Oats are not the only food that will fit a horse for labor or the road—roots are oftentimes much superior. Carrots are perhaps the first in this class—and are noted both for their action upon the internal organization and in an improved external appearance. A loose, mellow hide is observable in all animals where this root forms a portion of their food. In this connection it may be proper to say, that every barn should have a hay or straw cutter, and that the instrument should be kept in daily use. Every method by which the digestion can be improved, ought to be resorted to—for the stomach is the great furnisher of motive power, and should the steam go down, locomotion is impeded or brought to a full stop.

Regularity in feeding is a thing that must not be overlooked, if we aim at doing everything in our power for our stock. Every farmer can recall in his own experience numerous times when he

“Moodily has listened long,
To hear the dinner horn.”

And knows, however tired previous to the welcome sound, with what alacrity has been “laid down the shovel and the hoe,” and the most direct course taken for the well spread board. Animals possess some humanity in their composition, and if it can be discovered nowhere else, it is readily found in the stomach. Once more we would repeat, feed and water regularly.

The cleanliness of the horse is indispensable to the preservation of his health. Stables with every appliance of comfort, food in abundance and of the very best description—if every want be supplied—without the animal and his quarters are cleaned daily and kept so, it is of no avail. In addition to enhancing external appearance, there is but little doubt that the friction caused in the process of cleaning is promotive of the well being of the animal. The hair of the well-cleaned horse is soft and oily, and consequently it better fits him to withstand the cold rains so frequent during winter and early spring. The anointing matter is conferred through the agency of the skin, and this secretory process is doubtless augmented by good grooming. In the horse that is seldom or never groomed, the hair stands in

all directions, is rough and harsh to the feel, and in addition he has a dull and sickly look. Sooner or later mange will manifest itself in an animal thus cared for, and the sympathy of the outer with the inner organization, will rapidly affect the entire system.

Each department of the animal economy ought to receive its due proportion of care and attention, and must, if we expect the entire system to be benefitted. Let carelessness infringe upon the wants, in any one particular, and the detriment of all will be the result.—Temperance, purity of the atmosphere, quantity and quality of food, in fact everything that will redound to the animal comfort, is worthy of the closest scrutiny on the part of the owners of horses.—*Wool Grower.*

Mulching.

Mulching (called *Gurneyism* in England) consists in covering the soil with salt hay, litter, seaweed, leaves, spent tanbark, chips or other refuse matter.

Every farmer must have noticed that, if a board or rail, or an old brush-heap be removed in spring from soil where grass is growing, the grass afterwards grows in those places much larger and better than in other parts of the field.

This improvement arises from various causes.

1. The evaporation of water from the soil is prevented during drought by the shade afforded by the mulch; and it is therefore kept in better condition, as to moisture and temperature, than when evaporation goes on more freely. This condition is well calculated to advance the chemical changes necessary to prepare the matters—both organic and mineral—in the soil for the use of plants.

2. By preventing evaporation, we partially protect the soil from losing ammonia resultant from decaying organic matter.

3. A heavy mulch breaks the force of rains, and prevents them from compacting the soil, as would be the result, were no such precaution taken.

4. Mulching protects the surface-soil from freezing as readily as when exposed, and thus keeps it longer open for the admission of air and moisture. When unprotected, the soil early becomes frozen; and all water falling, instead of entering as it should do, passes off on the surface.

5. The throwing out of winter grain is often prevented, because this is due to the freezing of the surface-soil.

6. Mulching prevents the growth of some weeds, because it removes from them the fostering heat of the sun.

Many of the best nursery-men keep the soil about the roots of young trees mulched continually. One of the chief arguments for this treatment is, that it prevents the removal of the moisture from the soil and the consequent loss of heat. Also that it keeps up a full supply of water for the uses of the roots, because it keeps the soil cool, and causes a deposit of dew.

7. It also prevents the "baking" of the soil, or the formation of a crust.

It is to be recommended in nearly all cases to sow oats very thinly over land intended for winter fallow after the removal of crops, as they will grow a little before being killed by the frost, when they will fall down, thus affording a very beneficial mulch to the soil.

When farmers spread manure on their fields in the fall to be plowed under in the spring, they benefit the land by the mulching more than by the addition of fertilizing matter, because they give it the protecting influence of the straw, etc., while they lose much of the ammonia of their manure by evaporation. The same mulching might be more cheaply done with leaves, or other refuse matter, and the ammonia of the manure made available by composting with absorbents.—*Progressive Farmer.*

Treating Timber to make it Durable.

Messrs. Editors:—I am not aware that the following is generally known, at all events it is not practiced in this locality. In Germany it is known and practiced extensively. The matter is this: Hard wood, such as hickory, beech, dogwood, &c., is impregnated with the liquid of stable manure, and afterwards submitted to the influence of heat, and thoroughly dried, for the purpose of imparting to it good preservative qualities and rendering it tough and solid.

Wood intended for axe handles, mallets, &c., is steeped in this liquid for several days, and afterwards hung up over a fire and exposed to the influence of heat arising therefrom; two or three days are sufficient to render it thoroughly dry. It is then said to possess greater toughness and solidity than when subjected to any other process.

The farmers of Germany use mallets made of hard wood, which is prepared as above, for the purpose of driving iron wedges to split their timber; the wedges are usually made with a head about two inches or two and a half, and the mallet suffers no indentation from percussion.

If the process imparts to the wood such qualities spoken of, the knowledge of the fact may be interesting and profitable. It is certainly a simple and convenient process, and some one may be disposed to test it, and compare its effects with those obtained by other methods.

[*Indiana Farmer.*]

Inverting Posts.—I put up, in the fall of 1844, some post and board fence. The posts, which was oak, were cut in January, sawed two by three inches at the top, and two by six at the butt. I put them in the ground inverted from the way they grew, and packed with limestone. They are good and sound now. Posts of the same timber, set at the same time, packed with dirt, and without being inverted, are three-fourths rotted and worthless. I am now renewing my fences, with inverted posts, and packing with limestone, at an additional cost of ten cents per pannel; and I am sure that in fifteen years the increased cost over the ordinary fence will be saved by this method."—*Cor. Ohio V. Farmer.*

From the American Farmer.

Weevils and other Grain Insects.

I observe upon the first page of the last number of your American Farmer, accounts of various methods for getting rid of weevils and other insects, which produce such sad havoc upon our grain after being garnered. Without wishing to detract from the merits of the methods of others, I would state that the method of which I have observed, and which I have thoroughly tested by experience, has the merit of being very cheap and convenient. It is simply to sweep and clean out the granary, and then wash it all over on the inside with strong pickle of common salt. This drives out all sorts of insects and worms, penetrates the timbers of the barn, and kills the worms which are so apt to get in them and cut them—and preserves the timbers in a wonderful manner. After this process is repeated for several times, the timbers of the barn become saturated with the salt, and will not decay for one hundred years. The pickle should be carried up and thrown upon the joist and sides of the barn, until the whole is thoroughly wet. If this is worth anything to the public, they are welcome to the results of my experience.

Yours, truly,

AUGUSTUS HOLLEY.

Ashland, N. C., Sept. 14th, 1857.

Suffolk Hogs.—In the good qualities that constitute a perfect animal for producing the most pork, of the best quality, at the least cost, this family stands unrivalled as yet, by any in the U. States. Their merit in part consists in size; length of quarters; short and lean dished heads; fine, thin and upright ears; prominent eyes; fine tail and limbs; quietness; and above all, their perfect adaptation to take fat readily on the most favorable parts. I have slaughtered hogs of this breed whose live and dressed weight differed less than a ninth. No thorough-bred animals of this family have yet been slaughtered, but enough is known to warrant us in saying they will readily attain 500 lbs. at maturity. One litter of eight half-breeds averaged 280 lbs. at nine months. Two three-fourths do. attained 390 lbs. at 14 months. Although I rather doubt the assertion of their becoming very fleshy on "two chips and a corn cob," still I know they can manufacture pork of an excellent quality from clover and apples.

[*Albany Cultivator.*]

Bloody Murrain Cured.—One evening last week, my cow came home sick with the Bloody Murrain, but not so bad but that she would lick salt, although she refused corn and oats. I pulverized about a table spoon full of roll brimstone, and gave it to her in some bran slop well salted, and repeated the dose four times, morning and evening, by which time she was completely cured.

We have lost a great many cattle with Bloody Murrain, and this cow is the first one I ever saw cured. When we find them as sick as she was they generally die in about 24 or 36 hours, in spite of all that can be done.

D. DONALDSON.

Wood Co., May, 1857.

[*Ohio Cult.*]

Soil and Subsoil.

Formerly the surface soil only was observed and examined—the substratum was not thought of nor noted. If the upper layer was a dry clay, a compact loam, or a fine grained sandy loam, farmers seldom made an excavation in order to ascertain whether the subsoil consisted of a compact clay, a very tenacious white or blue clay, so impervious to water as to keep the top layer saturated except in a dry time, a very coarse sandy texture, or a loamy earth of a consistency to retain manures and moisture, but not so adhesive and compact as to form a close water-bearing stratum.

Cautious farmers at the present time, look almost as attentively to the lower as the upper soil, and believe that their success in growing crops in a greater measure, depends upon it. Though good grain and grass may be grown where the subsoil is leachy, yet it requires a large amount of manure, frequently applied, to keep such land in a productive state.

[*New Jersey Farmer.*]

Cure of Animals.

I give you a recipe for the diseases of horses and cattle. It is used by our farriers for bruises, sprain, ringbone, spavin and wounds, particularly on horses, and they use it on the human species. They design to keep it private:

One pint strong alcohol, 50 per ct. or over.

One half ounce blue vitriol, pulverized fine.

One ounce camphor, pulverized.

One ounce sal-nitre, pulverized.

Two ounces tincture myrrh.

Two ounces aqua ammoniac.

Add these to the alcohol; mix well; stand twelve hours, shaking frequently; keep the bottle well corked. Then add half-pint spirits turpentine. Must be shaken when used, or turned from the bottle, for the turpentine will not unite with the alcohol.—*Cor. Flow. Loom and Anvil.*

Duration of Posts.—The result of fifty year's experience and observation with me, is that common chestnut or whatever fence posts set in the ground green, and butt end downwards, will last in a sandy loam about ten years. The same set in like situation, top downwards, will last 15 or 18 years. The same timber, (and soil the same), well seasoned before setting, will last 8 or 10 years longer. Timber cut in the old of the moon in February, will not be eaten by worms; will not snap in burning, and will last much longer made into posts than if cut at any other time.—*Cor. N. E. Farmer.*

Grapes.—Professor Mapes, of New Jersey, says, with reference to grapes:

'Prune grapes in November, but never in the spring. In summer, as soon as the grapes set, pinch off all the shoots, three eyes beyond the fruit. These will sprout again, and must again be pinched off, three eyes beyond the junction. Again they will sprout. Let these young shoots grow, and when the insects come they will eat those tender twigs and let the rest alone. Never cut off leaves to let the sun in to ripen the fruit; it will ripen faster with than without the leaves. In summer, grape vines stop growing. Feed them with weak guano water, and two days after with weak

potash water. This will give more fruit and better flavor. Grape vines are rank feeders; so are raspberries and blackberries.'—*Ex.*

Worms in Horses, etc.—Put into the horse's mess, three successive mornings, each time about as much fine cut tobacco as would fill an old fashioned Dutch pipe. If a handful of ashes is given every week in a horse's mess, and whenever there is a change in the feed, or a change from hay to grass or vice versa the horse will rarely if ever be troubled with the bots, or any other ailment requiring the administering of Daud's prescription, or most other farrier's nostrums, for the reason that he will not be ailing. I write what I have tried for years.—*Cor. C. Gent.*

Feeding Sulphur to Cattle.—I have been in the habit of feeding sulphur to cattle for 20 years. I mix a pound of sulphur with six quarts of salt, and place it in a box where the cattle can have free access to it. I have not seen a horse on my cattle since I commenced this practice. I think it has a tendency to make the old hair come off more readily.

The best time to feed is in the fall or winter. If it is fed thus for two months in a year, I think no farmer will be troubled with lousy cattle.—*Cor. Alb. Cult.*

From the Rural American.

The Farmer---His Duties to his Family.

These are not limited by ability simply to feed and clothe them. Though such are among his duties; yet they do not comprise the sum. On the contrary let his entire arrangements be such, that the prosecution of the different avocations pertaining to the farm shall be educational. This, as it strikes us, may be accomplished in some of the following ways. Assign to each of the different members of the household specific duties. And begin this early.—When children are young there are some things which it may interest and improve them to perform. For instance, boys 5, or even younger, may have allotted to them the care of poultry. They will need advice and oversight, yet these may be given in such a way as shall make them feel that they are responsible for the young chickens, ducks or goslings, and that safety and growth depend on their watchful care. And how easy and natural for them to become intensely interested in their charge. And it is easy to see how this charge will fit them for others, so that at the age of 12 or thereabouts, they may be intrusted with the care of calves, colts, horses or one or more cows. Thus are they training for future men—men of industry, sobriety and prosperity; become men of order and economy in the conduct of their affairs.

Let the daughters also be early taught habits of useful employment. We have known misses from 7 to 9 years of age, who were model knitters, and others who at that age could afford the mother much assistance by the use of the needle. True, children at these ages should not be made mere workers. They need times of recreation, when they may romp and run and sport in all of childish glee. But these latter periods should have limits as well as the fore-

mer, and both boys and girls be taught to feel that if "all work and no play makes Jack a dull boy," so also, all play and no work makes him a worthless one.

What we have said intimates that there should be a *division* of labor. There are duties suited to the male, and others to the female members of the household. Whatever may be the customs among the ruder classes of society, we feel that among the better taught, boys will be taught to attend to the out door affairs, and girls to those within. We do not see why the latter should be required to "split the wood, or carry it into the house; shovel the snow or sweep the paths around the house; or carry pails of swill to the hogs, or dig potatoes for dinner." All these in our estimation fall naturally within the sphere of male members of the family; and when performed by them, the mother and sisters are relieved at once from that sense of drudgery which always more or less attaches itself to the performance of such out door business.

Another duty which the farmer owes to his family is to provide for them suitable implements for labor. In the house the utensils should be such as are best adapted to the various avocations there to be pursued. The kitchen should have its conveniences for cooking either in a well managed fire place, range or stove furnished with all the pots, kettles, bake pans and et ceteras, which are needful for the multiplied and varied duties that pertain to this mysterious part of life. Nor should any other part of the house be destitute of its appropriate furniture. Not that we plead for extravagance in any of its multiplied forms, but there is such a thing as necessities in all the departments of life. Let these be furnished, that time and shoe leather be not consumed in running to Mr. Snap's or Mr. Small's to borrow a pail, a dipper, a smoothing-iron, a bread pan or a churn for a hundred and one times in a year.

See also that your iran-yard, your garden and field have their appropriate tools. Do not exact labor of the "boys" when they have no suitable tools to bring such labor about. And do not tax your neighbors with furnishing implements for his own and your work also. Avoid likewise the too common practice of giving the poorest instrument to the youngest laborer. There was a practice somewhat prevalent years ago, of giving the old hoe, spade fork or rake to the lad just learning to use instruments; as though his skill could make of some service a worthless old tool which father or an older brother had thought not fit for them to use for years. Now we marvel if this be the way to inspire a love of labor. Rather let your boy have a new, light instrument, adapted to his age and strength, and encourage him to use it well, keep it clean and bright; and when the season is over store it away where it will come out "first rate" for next year. In this way you will be the most likely to awaken those sentiments which will accrue to your own, and your son's benefit in future years.

Now a word as to your duty relative to the moral, religious, and intellectual culture of your household. It is not enough that you suffer

them to learn if they will. You are to encourage them to do this, and provide for them means of education. We have stated how you may do this so far as *farming* is concerned. This is a part, and but a part of their education.

There are things to be learned from books as well as from hoes or plows. A horse or a mule may be learned how to use the latter; but your *child* ought to know more. He has affections to cultivate, intellect to train, powers of thought to be developed, reasoning faculties to be matured. In order to do this he needs books and contact with other minds. Give your children the advantages to be derived from these.— You cannot make a better investment than that made for the education of your sons and daughters. Do what you can to provide commodious school houses, well qualified teachers and instructive libraries. Five hundred or a thousand dollars expended in this way may put them in possession of a capital which will prove a more permanent and profitable investment than any which could be intrusted to them. Some sharper might soon fleece them of an estate in dollars and cents, but this class of genery have not yet learnt the art of relieving a man of a well educated mind, kept by invincible moral principle and religious truth. Do not then imitate the example of those sometimes found among our farming population, who seem to calculate with the utmost care, how school houses can be built and teachers hired at the least possible expense. We have seen such, who seemed impressed with the belief that the most illy constructed edifice, with slab seats, squeaking and rickety at that, an old cracked and smoky stove, supplied with such wood as could not be burned at home, and a teacher cheap enough to be satisfied with accommodations like these, was all that was needful to give their children a good common education. And they seem to begrudge even this. It is a waste, which in their estimation is not to be tolerated more than a few weeks in a year. Oh! shame on human nature for such meanness. A man, envy his own offspring the necessary facilities of mental culture! Alas, that it should be so! We trust, indeed it is not so much so in *reality*, as in appearance. But would it were not so even in appearance, and that what is done to elevate and fit for usefulness were always done with a hearty good will which should make the child feel that the parent is in right good earnest to provide for his mental improvement.

And so in morals and religion. Whatever is needful in order to secure these for the child, do as a part of the business of life. Will you not in this way lay up for yourselves, your posterity and your country a richer legacy, than the mere worker who looks upon his household as so many machines which he can operate to grind out so many dollars and cents as net profits on his invested stocks. AGRICOLA.

Clinton, N. Y.

He who plows his land and breeds cattle, spins gold.

The footsteps of the owner are the best manure for his land.

The Farmer and his Home.

It has always been a matter of wonder to us that the farmer should care so little for himself, the members of his family, and his home—that he should hold tasteful and beautiful things in contempt—that he can abide nothing which is not useful, according to his idea of usefulness, and that he should sacrifice comfort evermore to cash. The large majority of farmers have but two tests by which to try men and things: can they work—are useful? They bring up their boys and girls with the idea that work is the great thing—the more work a boy or a girl can do, the higher they rise in the scale of excellence. When they marry, they must marry a girl who can work. If she is “very smart” she is considered a prize. The prevalent fancy is particularly pleased if she has been known to lift out a five-pail kettle from the fires and get out a large washing before breakfast. It is all work, work, work—nothing but work. She commences her life ambitiously, determined to be as smart as her neighbors, does everything about her house, herself, bears children, takes care of them, and actually wears out her life with work, and, after death lives in the memory of her friends, as a woman who was “mighty smart at work” in her day.

A farmer's home is rarely beautiful and tasteful in its externals. So almost universally is this the case, that when an instance is found it is the theme of unwonted delight, and the cause of special remark. The barn very likely fronts the house across the street.

Carts and waggons stand upon ground which should be occupied by shade trees. There is no door-yard. There are no flowers. Everything is for use—everything suggests work, and work only. There is no indication of a life above this work—nothing to show the existence of a want above eating and drinking.—The soul necessarily grows small under the dull pressure of a life like this. It is a life contemptible and unworthy in every respect in which it may be regarded. If this unmindfulness of comfort, and the polite amenities life, were the result of simple difference, the case would be more hopeful; but their largely prevails a degree of contempt for these things, which proves that perverted notions have become inbred and well nigh ineradicable. Many a farmer whom we know, holds in the utmost scorn all show of polite life. The man who talks bluntly, and helps himself at table without show of bashfulness, and holds the parlor in contempt, and turns up his nose at flowers, and rejoices in the thickness of skin upon his hands, and isn't “stuck up,” is the popular man. What wonder is it that a boy brought up in this way, who accidentally gets a sight during absence at school, or on a visit of a different and more exalted kind of life, should leave the farm, for other pursuits and places as soon as possible.

We love the life of a true man who is a true farmer. His lot is the noblest and sweetest—the most free from sickness and care that falls to mortals. But this stereotyped talk about the desirableness of a farmer's life, as it pre-

vails in most localities, is the veriest gammon ever uttered. The farmer should be a gentleman. Some of them—nay, many in the aggregate—are gentlemen—and they make the noblest article of the kind we have. There is nothing in the farmer's profession that should make him awkward and boorish in the least. We trust that the young men now coming upon the stage will be something more than drudges—men who will take position in society—men who will delight to make their homes beautiful and comfortable, and who will do their share to throw the charm around the farmer's life which belongs to it—comfort, convenience, beauty, taste—the charm which will secure for it the talent which now seeks a more congenial atmosphere in other fields.—*Springfield Republican*.

The Best Layers.—Messrs. Editors:—Noticing articles in your journal on the relative value of certain breeds of fowls for laying, permit me to endorse a recent statement by the “Brooklyn Hen Coop,” as to the qualities of the Black Spanish and Leghorn fowls. I have kept them both for some time, as well as a number of other varieties, but find none to equal them in the quantity or size of eggs—rarely evincing a desire to set—in fact none of my Leghorns have ever shown that desire.

Last spring I confined three hens and one cock of the following named varieties, each quatern in a separate enclosure, and for 72 days kept an accurate account of their performances, which was as follows, beginning February 17th, and ending April 30th:

Leghorns laid 122 eggs—no disposition to set.	
Spanish “ 103 “ “ “ “ “	
Blk Polands, 83 “ “ “ “ “	
Gold “ 66 “ “ “ “ “	
Grey Dorkings, 65	all setting April 15
Cochin Chinas, 43	“ “ “ “ March 13

You have here the merits of the above fowls as layers, as far as my experience goes. Of course the great severity of the weather at that time must be taken into consideration.

R. W. P.

—Country Gentleman.

Fresh Corn the Year round.—Mr. Daniel Rowe, of Lancaster, Pa., has invented and patented a plan for providing green corn for the table the year round. He plucks green corn, and without depriving it of its milky juice or taste, keeps it in a state of freshness and preservation, ready for boiling at any season. His process is described in his plan:—“What I claim as my discovery and invention is the new art and process of preserving green corn in the ear, by extracting the pith or heart of the cob as rapidly as the outside, for preserving the virtues and juice of the grain and preventing the collection of mould or corruption, as herein described, and for the purposes set forth.” A Lancaster paper says Mr. Rowe is preparing convenient machines, not larger than those used for paring apples, by which every housekeeper can, in one evening, prepare ten or fifteen bushels of corn for her own use.—*Moore's Rural New Yorker*.



The Farmer and Planter.

PENDLETON, S. C.

Vol. VIII, No. 11, : : : November, 1857.

The Law of Newspapers.

We would call the especial attention of subscribers who intend discontinuing their paper without paying *up all* arrearages, to the following:

1. Subscribers who do not give express notice to the contrary, are considered as wishing to continue their subscriptions.
2. If subscribers order the discontinuance of their papers, the publisher can continue to send them until all arrearages are paid.
3. If subscribers neglect or refuse to take their papers from the office to which they are directed, they are held responsible till they settle their bill, and order the papers discontinued.
4. If any subscriber removes to another place without informing the publisher, and their paper is sent to the former direction, they are held responsible.
5. The court has decided that refusing to take a newspaper from the office, or removing and leaving it uncalled for, is *prima facie* evidence of an intentional fraud.

Error.

In our editorial remarks on cotton, Oct. No., page 228, line 13 from beginning, read *eternally* for "eventually," which word appears in many copies sent out.

Correspondents.

To some of our old friends and contributors, we desire to say, we regret to see that they are, in our humble opinion, unnecessarily sensitive, or tender skinned to the *pricks*, as they seem to feel them, of others of our correspondents. We may be at fault, but if so, not, we assure our friends, intentionally.—We may, perhaps, best compare ourselves to an old thermometer now in our possession, the mercury in which has become sluggish and inactive; for whilst our neighbors's thermometers indicate a very high or low degree of temperature, ours stands several degrees below or above theirs. And so with us as respects supposed offered insults to our old highly esteemed correspondent, whose cause we would defend as our own, and resent an intentional insult offered as soon as to ourselves. But our dullness of perception—it may be—prevents us from seeing or appreciating such flings, and hence we suffer them to pass as harmless missiles, not intended or calculated to do any the least harm.

The Ladies' Department.

We call the attention, especially of our lady readers, to the article of our esteemed correspondent, "Nancy." Any one not having had the pleasure of paying our fair correspondent a visit, may, from reading this article alone, well judge of the order and neatness which always preside throughout her home department. "Nancy" is one of the very few Southern women that can both work and write.

To our *young* lady friend, "Josey Jonquil," we owe an apology for neglecting to make one of our most polite bows on her first appearance in our last number. We now make all due acknowledgements, and beg "Josey" not to forget her promise, to give us "an article now and then," and "*information*" on any subject suited to her taste or inclination.

Chinese Sugar Cane.

Some friend (perhaps the author) has sent us a copy of the *Fairfield Herald*, in which we find a very interesting account of the culture and manufacture of the *Sorghum* into syrup, by H. C. Davis, Esq., for which we return thanks, and will give it a place in our next, when we will say something of our own operations.

Weeds---Continued.

We published last month, our friend Broomsedge's reply to our June article, on the subject of weeds.—We had hoped from his long silence that we had won him over to our cause, and enlisted him in our warfare against weeds. We would have rejoiced to have had the benefit of his merited reputation and his wide spread influence in such a good cause. But from his last article we are sorry to see that he still persists in what we consider a great error, and on him and others will rest the responsibility of hindering the introduction of an entire reformation in the practice of Southern agriculture. We most gladly return to the discussion of the weed question. We do not consider the argument exhausted, and have only waited to hear from our opponents, in order that both sides of the question should be presented to our readers.

In our June number we recommended that the cow pea should be substituted in the place of weeds; that it would perform for Southern agriculture what clover has done for the North and West, by giving us a better rotation for our lands, by adding a fertilizing instead of an exhausting crop; and above all, by adopting a cleansing instead of a foul culture; and thereby of getting rid of weeds, which we regard, notwithstanding, all that has been said to the contrary, as vile pests and a disgrace to Southern agriculture.

In giving this opinion, if we expressed ourselves with zeal and warmth, we felt justified by the importance of the subject, and the magnitude of the evil we had to contend against. We did not resort to "rhetorical flourishes" or an attempt at "eloquence of style," which we regard as rather equivocal compliments, in order to fascinate the eye or ear of the reader, and to make the "worse appear the better cause;" and more

especially did we not attempt to throw ridicule on the arguments of our opponents, by applying the caustic pen of wit, which we object to in all genteel and dignified controversy. Where truth is the object, such weapons should be discontinued and discarded. To my mind, it is always an evidence of a weak cause, it being a very common artifice to weaken the force of an argument to throw it into ridicule. It was on this that the famous Lord Shaftsbury raised his system of false philosophy, and erected his standard or rather his test of truth. He even applied it to religion and the most sacred things, and indiscriminately to every subject, no matter how serious or important the consideration involved. Whatever he could not pull down by reason and argument, he assailed by ridicule, and whatever could not stand his test, he pronounced false and untrue. But his Lordship's name and his writings have long since sunk to the infamy they deserved, and a higher standard of truth erected on their ruins.

Now we conceive it does not at all effect the merits of the question, whether the style of the writer was rhetorical or otherwise, or whether our theory of getting rid of weeds conflict with "ornithology" or "entomology," or whether "birds, bugs, worms, moles and mice" would fall a victim to our zeal for their destruction. The question is not on what the Chinese people live upon;—but the wonder is, how such a crowded population get any thing at all to eat;—not that the English people have such a large number of children not educated, but how their land is cultivated, and whether they have any room for weeds where they have so many mouths to fill. The question is of far graver importance. It is whether weeds, instead of being beneficial plants, are not an injury to the interest of agriculture and the whole race of mankind, whether the practice of all other countries having any pretensions, and which are at war against weeds, is not founded in reason and good sense.

In order to prove the universality of the practice of other countries, we will resort to an argument drawn from etymology or the meaning of words, as conveying the idea of things:

1st. Weed—Saxon word—"The general name of any plant that is useless or troublesome—the word therefore has no definite application to any particular plant or species of plants, but whatever plant grows among corn, grass or hays, and which are either of no use to man or injurious to crops, are denominated weeds."

WEBSTER.

2nd. Weed—"A noxious or useless plant; anything noxious and useless."

WORCESTER.

3d. Weed—"an herb noxious or useless."

JOHNSTON.

4th. Weed—herbe—*sauvage*—wild—uncultivated.—FRENCH.

Now from these definitions of the term *weed*, we contend that common consent, so far as language or words can convey specific ideas, prove that they are not only noxious, but useless. It is incumbent, therefore, on their advocates to disprove this universal testimony of language by proving that they are not nox-

ious; and 2nd, That they are not useless. Even if they should be considered not noxious, but only useless, which is contrary to the generally received opinion of mankind, they occupy a position and stand in the way of what might be useful, and are therefore, injurious so far as they prevent improvement. Whatever, therefore, is the most beneficial to the crops they cultivate, and to the soil, will be most likely to be cultivated by those nations most advanced in agriculture. We have seen, and I hope proved, that weeds are not tolerated in such countries, and therefore, the inference is fair, that they are neither beneficial to the crops or to the land. The system of agriculture in such countries, exhibits a constant warfare between the farmer and his weeds. The fact that such hostility has been carried on from time immemorial, pervading all their systems of agriculture, and entering into their minutest details of husbandry, is a proof that they have been regarded as a great enemy, and their constant endeavor has been to cleanse the land from their pollution. But I have already exhausted this branch of the subject, to which it has been replied that their different circumstances and situation renders the reasoning from analogy unapplicable to us. If so, the phraseology of our language will have to be changed and a new dictionary issued for our benefit. Weeds, instead of meaning noxious plants, will, according to Broomsedge's etymology, be defined to be plants designed by nature for the preservation and re-seitiation of land, because nature in the prodigality of her production produces weeds—hence, according to his argument they were intended, and do perform an important office in furnishing pabulum to the soil and to the crops that succeed them.

The opinion that weeds afford rest to land, and thereby restore to the earth the pabulum that has been taken up by the crops grown on it, is, we think, a great mistake.

We do not believe that land requires or is improved by rest. On the contrary, there is no pause in nature's production, and the earth asw evidently designed to yield a regular, uninterrupted produce. But this law of nature—her constant tendency and desire to propagate lands to great prodigality, and variety in her productions. But there is a great difference in plants with regard to their fertilizing and exhausting effects on land. It is the province of good husbandry, to select and encourage the growth of one, and discourage and prevent that of the other. We believe weeds are in this latter category. As the productive quality of the earth never ceases till it is entirely worn out, if some crop is not planted, weeds will be voluntarily produced; therefore, it is the business of the good farmer to expel the unproductive or noxious plant, and introduce others that are more beneficial.

If, therefore, the idea of leaving land to rest, is wholly impracticable and ridiculous from its constant efforts and tendency to produce something, it should be our endeavor, by a judicious intermixture of crops, to add to and increase, instead of diminishing its powers of production. This involves an important enquiry, to wit: A proper rotation of crops for the preserva-

tion of land, and must call forth the sternest rebuke on Southern agriculture. But this is too wide a field to enter into in the present number—we shall take occasion to consider it in our next.

Hedges.

We are under obligations to the Editors of our able exchange, the "Carolina Spartan," for a *marked* and most interesting article, over the initials, "B. W.," headed "*Wooden Walls for Plantations*," which we had marked for insertion in this number of our paper; but which, from being mislaid, is crowded out—it shall, however, appear in our next. And, that we may take time by the forelock in procuring seed, which will now soon be ripe, we will here remark, that the able writer recommends as a hedge or "*wooden wall*," the "Black Locust" (*Pseudacacia*), to be planted so close as at first to form a hedge, and afterwards "*a solid wall around the enclosure, from one to two feet thick*." This locust is a very sure and thrifty grower in all the upper parts of our State, and we are sanguine in the belief that *it will succeed*, especially on land not too much exhausted and washed into gullies. At any rate, we will here suggest if it should not answer for the hedge and wall, *it will do* to set at distances of 8, 10 or 12 feet, to stand as future *living posts*, in which to insert rails or bars. The only objection to its use, either for this or the former purpose, will be its shade and draught from the soil on either side the fence. Perhaps for the latter purpose, a tree of a lower growth, the Catalpa (*Begonia Catalpa*),* for instance, might answer a better purpose. Trees only 3 or 4 inches through, would do to commence with in making a fence, by inserting the tapered ends of rails or plank (if a plank, a tenon at the lower and upper edge, would be best,) in inch auger holes, and not more than one or two inches deep, and supporting the pannel in the centre by a temporary post, until the growth of the tree will embrace the ends sufficiently to support the rails for all time or so long as they may last, and rails or plank for this purpose, should be of the most lasting wood.

The locust has seed in great abundance, which should be procured and sown in drills in a nursery for transplanting, or exposed to rain and frost through the winter, and then sown on the line of the intended fence. If any of our readers desire to do something to save the wholesale destruction of timber, now growing scarce in the South, let them procure the seed and wait the appearance of our promised article.

Whilst on the subject of Hedges we will embrace the occasion to remark that, a subscriber has recently made enquiry of us, where the seed of the Osage Orange can be procured, and at what time they should be planted. We have written him that we presumed the seed may be had of the Seedsmen of Columbia and Charleston; but as they do not advertise with us, we

*By some "Catawba" tree, which grows throughout all the Southern States—perhaps in all the States—sometimes to the height of 50 feet, but usually not so high as the locust. It is a tree of rapid growth, and the wood is of great duration when used for posts and other purposes.

speak without authority, and would recommend our friend to apply to D. REDMOND, Esq., Co-Editor of the "Southern Cultivator," Augusta, Ga., who will either furnish him or inform him where he can procure the seed. We have published several articles on hedges in the back numbers of our current volume, from which much useful information may be derived. One in our last number, giving directions for setting out the plants, and after management of the hedge, but nothing as to the preparation of the seed. This, we believe, is the same as recommended above for the locust seed, but if any of our readers know of a different and better preparation, we shall be obliged to them for the desired information.

"The Daily Carolina Times."

What's the matter gentlemen? have you followed the example of the banks and suspended, or have you resolved no longer to honor our drafts? If so, be it so; we can yet draw on our friend GIBBES, which is altogether satisfactory. We are well aware, as we stated to your polite and gentlemanly predecessor, Mr. BRITTON, when he proposed an exchange with us, that in exchange, we have, in at least one particular, the advantage of you, and so we have of many other papers, and hence we *ask* the favor of no one. Yet the courtesy of editors have granted us a liberal and excellent exchange list, with which we are content. We *ask* no more favors than we are able to return, yet we receive many that we are not.

The Crisis.

We had intended saying something in this number of our paper to guard our readers—especially planters—against dangers that threaten and will certainly overtake them, should they not have the courage and firmness to resist a panic; for so certain as they yield to the pressure, as have the commercial class, so certain will they sacrifice at least one half of what a different cause will insure them from their present greatly reduced crops of cotton. But we find the following "Timely Hint" to the readers of the "Cotton Planter and Soil," from the pen of its able Editor, in the columns of the "Columbus Enquirer," which applies so well to the object we had in view, that we cannot resist adopting and transferring it to our columns, and anxiously commend it to the attention and *saving* consideration of the readers of the Farmer and Planter:

A Timely Hint to our Readers, the Cotton Planters of the Country.

"Heretofore it has been our duty mainly as editor of the Cotton Planter and Soil, to address you on the subject of improvements in your plantation economy—on the best modes of cultivating your crops, and the surest means of improving the fertility of your lands, &c.; but a state of things has taken place within the last few weeks, in the commercial crisis which is now sweeping over the country—that is threatening your interest as planters, in the sacrifice of your cotton crop now made. Quiet and secluded generally at your rural homes,

engaged patiently but laboriously, amid adverse seasons unprecedented, you have, from your generous soil produced a crop of cotton worth at least \$200,000,000, if sold at a price which is now warranted by the Liverpool quotations, 9½ pence per lb. for good middling. In view of these facts, we shall offer no apology for the opinion which we shall presume to express as to the duty you, as Cotton Planters, owe to yourselves and the best interest of the country, in the disposition of the present crop of cotton, which is yours, and mainly in your hands as yet.

"This commercial difficulty, in the production of which you have had no agency whatever, has not only in a few weeks' time reduced the price of your cotton from 15 cts. to 6 or 8 cts. per lb.; but it has forced the banks of the whole country to suspend specie payments, and if forced into market in any great quantity, could not be sold at any price.

"There has been doubtless at the North and North-west, where this thing had its origin, just cause for it, among the fancy stock-jobbers and wild land speculators; but here at the South there has been no legitimate cause for such overwhelming disaster in the commercial affairs of the country. With us, in the plantation States, it is the result entirely of a loss of confidence, and our banks have therefore acted wisely in the policy of a general suspension—not that any right minded man could for a moment justify bank suspension in the abstract. What then is the proper policy for you to pursue, with regard to your cotton, which is an absolute necessity for the well doing of all the industrial pursuits of the civilized world? Manifestly to *suspend* its further sale for the present. It is worth, as shown by the Liverpool quotations, a price, in money, that will compensate you handsomely for the labor and painstaking expended in its production and preparation for market. Withhold it then, every bale, from sale for 60 days or less perhaps, and it must necessarily command its proper valuation in money, in the markets of the country. This is all you want, its fair and proper value in money—this is but your right and nothing less; if you will, you may have it. But you must exercise, as planters, a community of action, uniform, prompt, energetic and determined, without fear or faltering—because you have naught to fear. Your cotton is, as before said, an absolute necessity, not merely affording the raw material for manufacturers, or the fabric for the necessary wear of civilization, but the *daily bread* of millions is alone dependent on the speedy going forward of your cotton. Be firm then; you have but to make a manly stand, and demand a fair price for your cotton to get it. I shall not presume to dictate to you, what we should ask in so many cents per pound, but this I tell you, the Liverpool quotations to-day (*and they are wont to rule us, especially when the scale of prices stand adverse to us!*) warrant 14 to 15 cts. in our seaport markets. Stand then, square up to your interest now, as true men and wise men, and by the first day of January all will be right again—the market active and the price fully remunerative."

For the Farmer and Planter.

Vine Culture.

MR. EDITOR:—Though I read constantly your useful and important agricultural publication, still I meet nothing in it with respect to the vine culture in our State. There is evidently a disinclination to communicate any statement about this new branch of industry. The planters are full of Sugar Cane as well as the papers. Well, let them alone; but let me tell you my story, or my experience rather.

Last winter, and especially last spring, was fatal to the vines, owing to the low temperature. Most of the vines were killed down to near the ground, except the Scuppernong.—This appears very strange, since this vine is a native of our warm, sandy soil, near the ocean. Notwithstanding this misfortune, the class of vines of the Catawba kind and Burgundy, put out the latent buds and the same fruit buds, the whole bearing a moderate crop. We had in June and the beginning of July, a very long spell of wet season, which proved a great injury to the grapes by the rot; but was followed by an equally long portion of dry weather, which caused the grapes to mature unequally; but still the ripe ones were of excellent quality, though small in quantity as to the juice. My vintage will produce excellent wine this year, such as to stand comparison with the best European kinds. It recalls to my mind the celebrated vintage of 1811—the famous "*Comet Wine*," renowned for its superiority even to this day.

After so many reverses and mishaps in the culture of the vine and making of wine among our people, it seems to me that, what we lack is, intelligent perseverance. We have the soil, the climate is more congenial than Ohio. My observation forces upon my mind the positive conviction that we have in the Scuppernong, at least, the wine that never fails. The European may fail at times, and the Catawba also, though not so badly. These two last vines are very much injured by caterpillars eating up the leaves, and thus injuring the grapes and preventing their perfect maturity. Fires lit up about the vineyard at sun set, in June and July, will afford a fiery tomb to the butterfly that lays the eggs.

The stumbling block after all, is, the wine making—the art of making pure wines—the art of vinefaction—the practical knowledge of the law of fermentation applied to vinefaction. This calls for a proper cellar wherein to press and ferment. Mine is of solid granite—the

wall two feet thick. It requires a proper machine for mashing and pressing. Mine were made here by Mr. Enright, a superior cotton gin maker. Of course made on my plans. It requires a thermometer and Beagme's hydrometer to determine the specific gravity of the *must* (the pure juice of the grape), which will soon tell if the *must* will make wine or vinegar.

I heard that a friend of mine, not being aware of the danger of the carbonic acid gas which is generated in the act of fermentation, owing to the badly constructed cellar, was very near losing one or two valuable negro men who attended to the cellar. The said gas is a non-supporter of combustion, and is not respirable, and of course asphyxiates, as much so as if dropped in the ocean. I mention this for a warning. In French works on vinification, there are whole chapters on this subject, which shows the importance of this hint.

When I saw my *must* marking 13° degrees of the hydrometer, I thought my head would turn, so glad was I at the rich result of my toilsome and incessant labors; and then my cellar, having for weeks an equable temperature, vibrating only two or four degrees, between 60° and 70° F., for whole weeks, while out doors, the variations, from day to day, were 30 and more degrees F.

The consequence has been a moderate and well-regulated fermentation, and the wine is proportionably good already. I am in perfect ecstasy—I am intoxicated with joy—I could shed tears of pleasure, at so complete a success—I have not labored in vain. We may exclaim with Archimedes, "*I have found it!*" To be sure we cannot snatch at once, valuable truths from nature; but to obtain so rich a result, is the pride of my heart; though, perhaps, yet imperfect in the result, and with respect to the greater perfection, experience and perseverance will teach us. Behold, therefore, the principal step of my nerving labors realized; and behold the many years of careful observation and improvements of my vines of pecuniary sacrifices of wear and tear of body and mind, at last rewarded.

I am desirous to teach all these things *here* on my place practically, but not by letter. I have advertised that I shall do so, for a small compensation. Your friend,

J. TUGNO.

Abbeville C. H., S. C.

Nest Eggs.—A correspondent says: "Instead of using new-laid eggs in winter for nest eggs, that burst, and teach the hens to eat their eggs, get the porcelain-imitation eggs, at ten cents each, sold by grocery dealers and others." This is good advice. We use them during both winter and summer.

For the Farmer and Planter.

A word to that Ex-Editor on Southern Plows.

MR. EDITOR:—As he has been pleased to compare my plows with some other "self-styled Southern improvements," to the "Egyptian plow, made from the fork of a tree, and hitched to the tail of a bullock, scratching up the mellow soil of the Nile Valley," I ask permission through your columns, to accept publicly his challenge in reference to his Anderson's Scotch Plow, or any other.

I now insist that he shall be present (and no backing out) at the Fair at Columbia, on the 10th, &c., of November, with the best prepared plows he can get, with a reliable team, and a dynamometer to test draft, for I want him to have a fair opportunity to stake his reputation as a *judge of a good plow*, before the intelligent and practical farmers of South Carolina. I beat him in the field trial last year, and I intend to beat him *worse* this time.

G. W. COOPER.

Ogeechee, Ga.

For the Farmer and Planter. That Proposition.

MR. EDITOR:—I am delighted to have such valuable coadjutors as my accomplished friend Broomsedge, and my intelligent and valiant friend, Perkins, Jr. The proposition is bound to prosper, and be attended with abundant success ultimately. I send you the following names: B. F. Arthur, Esq., lawyer at Union C. H.; Mr. R. S. Gist, Union C. H.; Col. John Crook, Spartanburg Dist.; and Mr. Richard Woods, Woods' Ferry, Chester Dist., S. C.

I have not the Farmer and Planter before me containing Broomsedge's amendment to my proposition, but I remember what he says; he is in favor of extending the time from three months to twelve. I have, however, the Farmer and Planter of October before me, containing the remarks of my friend, Perkins, Jr. I prefer to let him speak for himself. He says: "We were glad to see Col. Dogan's proposition, but think his time too short. If he will admit the following suggestive amendment, you have our name for an X, and we will 'pitch in' for the premium too. We would suggest that the subscription money be made up, and from the receipt of the last ten dollars, the next twelve numbers of the *Farmer and Planter* be open to the premium essay, which must be an agricultural article, not less than four, and no more than ten, pages long." Thus writes my friend Perkins, Jr. I accept, with great pleasure, the important suggestion of my friend Broomsedge.

and with equal delight, the suggestive amendment of my gallant friend, Perkins, Jr., of *Poverty Place*.

I want to call into active development the latent energy and talent of that most intelligent and highly honorable class of the citizens of our State, *the tillers of the soil*. By reference to DeBow's Review for May, 1857, you will find that the number of students in colleges, in proportion to the white population in So. Ca., is 1 to 331. In Wisconsin, 1 to 4083 white inhabitants. In the New England States, 1 to 916. In the Middle States, 1 to 826. In the Northwestern States, 1 to 697; and in all the Southern States, 1 to 545. You can judge for yourself, Mr. Editor, whether or not from the figures, we have any intelligence in our midst.

The happiness of nearly seven eighths of all civilized communities will be vastly increased by the liberal communication of proper and correct sentiments, views and principles on this time-honored and heaven blessed pursuit. Agricultural theory now submits to the ordeal of proof. The genuineness of improvement is confirmed by the signature and seal of *experience*. Diffusion and dissemination of agricultural knowledge, should be the lofty purpose—the grand design of us *all*. I do not, Mr. Editor, think of competing *for the premium*. My bachelor establishment has no need of 100 dollars worth of silver, it would be out of place here.

Yours, sincerely,

W. S. DOGAN.

Sylvania, Oct 17th, 1857.

Caution to Farmers.—Mr. George W. Effinger, living near town, has lost 5 head of young cattle and 2 fine milch cows, within the last few days, by permitting them to run in the same field where he was feeding his hogs. The hogs ate the stalks of corn, and left them on the ground after chewing. These were taken up by the cattle, eaten, swallowed, and not being digestible, produced an itching all over.—They at once commenced rubbing their heads, when their throats swelled, and in a short time death ensued. We have heard of other farmers losing cattle that were suffered to run where hogs were fed in this way.—*Rockingham Register*.

Ascertain how much land you can afford to keep from weeds. Remember, we ought not to judge a man's gardening qualities, *by the amount of land he tills, but how well he cultivates*; better quarter of an acre full of fruit and flowers, than half, where every other plant is a weed.



Ladies' Department.

For the Farmer and Planter.

Housekeeping.

MR. EDITOR:—Agreeably to the promise made in my last, to write an article occasionally for your paper, I will try now and fulfil that promise by offering my thoughts on the same subject I first introduced, viz: Housekeeping.

In my opinion, the government of a family has some resemblance to that of a nation; the contents of the treasury should be known by those who have the management of it, and great care taken to keep the expenditures from being equal to the receipts. A regular system should be introduced into each department, which may be modified until matured, and then pass into an inviolable law. The great secret of management lies in three simple rules: Let every thing be done at the proper time, keep every thing in its proper place, and put every thing to its proper use; and in order to do every thing at a proper time, the first thing is, to have an early breakfast.

Early rising is very essential to the good government of a family. A late breakfast deranges the whole business of the day, and throws a portion of it on the next, which opens the door for confusion to enter. It is the duty of the husband or head of a family, to see that all hands are ready to eat at one time without delay, as there can be but little work accomplished till breakfast is finished, for when the family breakfast by parcels, the table remains set a tedious time, and servants are kept from other business. Consequently, complete derangement follows in almost everything.

Now, the next thing for the mistress to do after the kitchen breakfast is over, and the cook has put all things in their proper places, is, to make up in her mind what she intends to have cooked for dinner, then go and lay it out with her own hands.

She should tax her own memory with the laying out of every article required. We have no right to expect servants to be more atten-

tive to our business than we are ourselves; they will never recollect every little article until they are going to use it; the mistress is then called out, and thus she is annoyed and fretted, and has an uneasy mind all day, when half an hour devoted to it after every meal, would release her from this trouble until the next. There is economy as well as comfort in a regular mode of doing business; and when the mistress gives out everything, there will not be so much waste, besides, when temptation is thrown in the way of servants, not many will have power to resist it. The prosperity, as well as the happiness of a family, greatly depends on the proper management of it.

Much more could be written on this subject, but I will leave that to others more competent to write. I hope to hear soon through the Farmer and Planter, from one or all of your lady correspondents—Lucy, Mattie, Minnie and Josey Jonquil, and would be pleased if twice as many more as good were added to the list.—What say you, Maj. Seahorn? Then by writing one article apiece annually, we would assist you in filling the Ladies' Department.

Below I give a couple of receipts for dying wool thread, which I hope will not be too late in the season to be of service to some of the lady readers of your excellent paper.

NANCY.

RECEIPT FOR DYING RED.—First clean the thread properly in warm water and soap, then for two pounds of thread dissolve one pound of alum in enough warm water to cover it; put in the thread and simmer it on the fire ten minutes; take it off, rinse it clean in cold water, then pour boiling water on one peck of wheat bran, let it stand till it gets cold; strain it and dissolve one pound of madder in it, then put in the thread while cold, and boil it an hour, stir it all the time while boiling; wring it out and air it, then dip it in lye.

FOR GREEN.—Take one pound of oil of vitriol, and four ounces indigo pulverized finely; mix them and let it stand 14 days in a bottle, stirring it once a day. Boil to a strong ooze equal quantities hickory and red oak barks; then put in one pound alum to three pounds yarn, and add of the first mixture until you get it the shade you like; then put in the yarn and let it simmer three hours; rinse it in cold

water and dry it in the shade. There will be enough vitriol and indigo for nine pounds deep green, and six of pale. N.

Calhoun, S. C., Oct., 1857.

"Many mickles make a muckle," we believe it is. Mrs. Mary A. C. Hanford, Editor of the Northwestern Farmer, thus demonstrates on

Little Wastes.

There's an old Scotch proverb which I cannot now recall though hearing it often in childhood; but which *anglicised*, I suppose would read thus:—Many *littles* make a *muck*. This is verily so in all *housewifery* matters. It would be hard to make the housewife, careless in this respect, believe how many comforts may be had from the "saving of little wastes."

We quite as frequently find the intelligent, refined and wealthy lady, more thoughtful in these respects than those who have been little used to the luxuries of life. Take for example much of our hired help. Poor and needy as they often are—they cannot economise for themselves or be taught so to do for their employers. One chief reason is their lack of *mental* culture, which is needed in the practice of contrivance and ingenuity, without which one cannot be *economical*.

Accustomed only to use their physical powers, the brain will not admit of further taxing than to see or understand that which is tangibly before them. It requires *invention* to be *saving*, and more *thought* than they have to expend for themselves—much less upon the affairs of others.

Even in their own matters—their *economy* generally, consists in doing without what they cannot *get*. The art of substituting, of making a little appear to much advantage, of curtailing their expenditure is comparatively needless—to make a more useful outlay elsewhere, is unknown to such.

This is a branch of education which in every child should receive attention—be it rich or poor. Teach them that "waste is sin." Even looking at it *selfishly*, though they may not at once see that they deprive themselves of anything—they surely do. For let the wealth be what it may, wasteful lavishness in one place, is pretty sure to occasion shabbiness, meanness, or ungenerousness somewhere else. The demands of society and charity, as well as the calls for gratification of taste increase in a geometrical progression with the *means* given—so that even the rich cannot afford to be *wasteful*. This word, as well as *economy*, has a different shade of meaning, as applied to different individual means.

It is generally the poverty stricken would be gentilities, who scorn most contemptuously to be saving in little things. They fancy themselves too elegant or *whole souled*, to bend to such trifles. But that to which they cannot or will not stoop at one point, makes them bow elsewhere and show themselves shabby or mean—where the "saving of little wastes" would enable them to do better.

From the Valley Farmer.

Woman in the Garden.

Much in these days is said about the sphere of woman. Of this vexed question we have nothing now to say. The culture of the soil, the body and the soul are our themes. Rich soils, healthy bodies, pure, cultivated souls, these are what we are aiming at. And to this end we recommend that every country woman have a garden that she keeps and dresses with her own hand, or at least that she supervises and manages. The culture of strawberries, raspberries, currants and garden vegetables are as delightful and profitable as anything in which woman can engage. She may sprinkle her garden well with flowers. All the better for

*Yes, *ten times*, we care not how many, and we do, as heretofore, most respectfully invite all the ladies to lend us a helping hand in filling out the Ladies' Department.—Ed. F. & P.

that. A snowball in this corner, a rose in that, a daisy in a bed there and a moss border here will not be out of place. Only let the substantial and useful constitute the chief part. A touch of the ornate like a ribbon on a good bonnet is not in the least objectionable. In all the schools the girls study Botany. In all families the women ought to practice botany. It is beautiful, pleasing and useful. The principles of horticulture are the principles of botany put into practice. Farmers study agriculture, why should not their wives and daughters study horticulture? If any employment is feminine, it would seem that this is. If any is healthy, this must be. If any is pleasurable none can be more so than this. A rich bed of strawberries, a bush of blackberries or currants, a border of flowers produced by ones own hand, what can well afford a more rational satisfaction? We say to all our country sisters, have a garden if it is only a small one, and do your best with it. Plant it with what pleases you best, with a good variety, and see what you can do with it. What woman cannot raise beets, tomatoes, melons, onions, lettuce and furnish her own table with them? What woman can't plant a raspberry bush or currant, gooseberry and tend it well? Come, good women, study your health, your usefulness and happiness and your children's also.

From the Valley Farmer.

Air and Health.

Do all our good housekeepers understand that pure air is the first requisite of good health? The life blood of our bodies gets its life principle from the air, or at least the support of the life principle. To breathe impure air is as deleterious as taking small doses of poison. In our travels in the country we have often noticed that sleeping rooms are small and often poorly ventilated. Sometimes they are close under the roof and several beds in one room; generally they have low ceilings and small windows. Often they are but little more than large enough for a bed, ceiled up and plastered and the window nailed down. We have often been shown into rooms to sleep that seemed as though the air was stagnant and almost putrid, and yet it was with the utmost difficulty that we could get a window open or any ingress for fresh air. Let housebuilders see to it, that all sleeping rooms be large and airy, and easily ventilated and with high ceilings. Let all housekeepers give due attention to ventilating their rooms. Keep the best air circulating through them all the time, day and night. Better sleep out of doors than too many in a room, or in too small rooms. Sitting rooms, pantries, sick rooms, closets, &c., should be especially attended to in this respect. The good housekeeper is very careful to scrub and wash and dust; let her be more careful to keep her house full of pure air. Cleanliness is an article of our creed, but fresh air comes before it.

How often we hear of people feeling wearied, dull, stupid, yawning when they wake in the morning, and having to go out into the air and wash and exercise before they begin to feel like themselves. This is generally owing to sleeping in confined air, too small rooms, or too many in a room. One should always feel like a bird the moment he wakes in the morning, and so he will, if he is well and sleeps in pure air and enough of it. Better be short of

food and raiment, of money and friends than pure air. This is one of the evils of wealth and warm houses. Log houses are often healthiest because they are open. We believe in comfortable houses, but more in fresh air. *

Fanny Fern on Dress.—It is my opinion after all that is said, that women dress much more with an eye to their own sex, than to the other. What man, unless he is a dry goods merchant, knows whether a woman wears Honiton or cotton lace? What man else knows the value of the dainty handkerchiefs with which ladies so ostentatiously polish their pretty noses? What man else knows, or cares to know, the value of the camel's hair shawl, spread so carefully over their shoulders? By the good! not one. But the delighted peacock possessor rejoices that every feminine eye which rests upon it, computes its value to a fraction. Yes—women dress much more for each other's eyes than men. I never knew a man, whose opinion was worth asking, who did not prefer to see a pretty woman (and I imagine the most demure of 'em don't look long at any other) unostentatiously and modestly dressed; and I never saw a pretty woman who did not look prettier in her plainest home dress than in her most elaborate adornments. But alas! for plain home dresses—where are they? Where is the pretty de-laine, and neat calico, none too good for little climbing feet—now fashion banished?—Echo answers,—Where?—*Exchange.*

To White Flour.—Messrs. Mouriez and Chevrene, chemists, who have superintended the provision of bread for the hospitals, and subjected all kinds to experiments, submitted a report to the French Academy, in which they condemn the practice of making bread too white. It is then, they remark, a condiment, not an aliment. The exclusion of bran is a loss of nourishment to the consumer; the palate and fancy are gratified at the expense of the whole animal economy.—*Journal of Health.*

Cure for a Burn.—Take hogs gall and spread it on writing paper, and when dry, cut a piece the size of the burn and let it remain until it comes loose, and it will prove a most effectual cure.

Eggs can, it is said, be better preserved in corn meal than in any other preparation yet known. Lay them with the small end down, and if undisturbed, they will be as good at the end of the year as when packed. Another very good method is to grease them well. In this way they may be kept throughout the winter.

Tobacco Smoke as a Remedy.—The Louisiana Baptist recommends tobacco smoke as a highly valuable remedial agent in the treatment of flesh wounds, lockjaw, &c., the smoke to be blown upon the affected part through a pipe stem. Many persons are aware of the healing virtues of tobacco when applied moist to a wound.